

The World's Daily Newspaper

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# Counting Out the Euros in Wages and Jobs

Unions Fear Effect of Big Cost Disparities

By John Vinocur and John Schmid International Herold Tribuna

PARIS — For all the hopes placed in the curo as an economic clixir, the common currency is bringing new ten-sions to the area of salaries and the related concern among trade unions that Europe is heading for a wave of downward competitive bidding on wages and job relocation.

in response, unions are talking for the first time about initiatives that have the outlines of transnational collective bargaining. Specific discussions are under way on how to set cross-border standards on hours, overtime and minimum wage levels — not so much for unskilled entry-level jobs as for whole industrial sectors such as the automobile industry.

The circumstances are simple: The average liourly cost of industrial labor in the 11 countries of the European Union's single-currency zone varies so much that it seems certain to force a reconsideration of where many manufacturers and service providers place their operations and how much they pay their workers.

The average hourly all-inclusive labor cost in manufacturing in 1998 in Germany was 28.68 euros (\$33.07). It was 7.51 euros in Portugal, the lowest among the countries that adopted the euro on Jan. 1.

France, based on statistics for the first quarter of last year, was 24 percent below Germany in industrial hourly wage costs but 31 percent above Spain. Taking the whole year into account, Ireland had labor costs roughly double those of Portugal's but about one-third

lower than those in the Netherlands.

These figures, compiled by the EU's statistical agency and recalculated by Rexecode, a French economic-research group, do not constitute a lode-star of sudden business wisdom. But the numbers' meaning is chan-

ging with the presence of the euro, the ease it brings to making comparisons and the inhibitions it removes in

See EURO, Page 10



# **NATO Chief** Warns Serbs And Rebels On Attacks

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS --- In what he called a turning point in the Kosovo crisis, NATO's top official, Secretary-General Javier So-lana, warned both the Serbian authorities and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority that the alliance was ready for military action unless they agreed to the terms and timetable of a plan for peace within a few weeks.

Meanwhile, the terms of the proposed two-track settlement will be set out Frilay in London at a meeting of foreign Group that has piloted international cooperation in the post-Yugoslavia crises - the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

The Contact Group will reportedly propose "proximity talks" in which the

In Kosovo, an order to kill 45 ethnic Albanians has been traced to Belgrade. • U.S. jets attacked an Iraqi missile site. Page 10.

Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, and Kosovar leaders of the ethnic Albanians, come to a neutral venue, probably Geneva, and Western emissaries shuttle between them until an accord

can be hammered out. Both the military and political pressure will be ratcheted up Saturday, officials said, when Robin Cook, Britain's foreign secretary, is expected to fly to Selgrade to deliver the political ultimatum to Mr. Milosevic.

The same day, NATO will reinstate its activation order authorizing immediate air strikes at Serbian targets unless

See KOSOVO, Page 10



ALGERIAN PROTEST - Some of the hundreds of relatives of 'victims of terrorism,' mostly women, demonstrating Thursday at the National Assembly in Algiers to press the government to cancel a law that they said gave equal rights to families of Muslim rebels and their victims in seven years of civil strife.

# In Colombia, Aftershocks of Mayhem

ARMENIA, Colombia — President Andres Pastrana took personal com-mand Thursday of the deadlocked earthquake relief operation in western Colombia, sending thousands of soldiers and troops to stop looting by both survivors and opportunists.

Shouting "We are hungry!" men and women sacked dozens of stores in Armenia, the worst-hit Colombian city, carting away such essentials as drinking water and food, as well as liquor, fur-

niture, TV sets and other goods. The toll from the earthquake that hit Monday reached 878 dead and more than 3,410 injured, said Maria Perrelet, a Red

seems ready to speak its mind.

ruffled American feathers by calling on NATO to

See FISCHER, Page 10

Cross spokeswoman. The quake measured magnitude 6 on the Richter scale. Search and rescue officials said they expected the death toll to rise as more debris was cleared and to easily exceed 1.000 in the 17 cities, towns and villages

that were rocked by the quake. About 200,000 people were homeless. President Pastrana rushed to the coffee-growing region, calling in 2,700 soldiers and police to restore order and

taking over direction of the relief ef-The armed forces commander, Gen-

eral Fernando Tapias, declared Armenia under control Thursday, but new looting broke out in the city center, prompting

the military police to hurl tear gas. In Geneva, aid agencies said Thursday that figures from United Nations coordinators showed that more than \$2.7 million in international aid had

been pledged. Calling for more aid, Mr. Pastrana said, "The tragedy is so great that no Colombian could imagine it."

Already more than 240 tons of food have been shipped to Armenia, Mr. Pas-trana said, pledging to eliminate delays

in distributing it.

Defense Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said Thursday that Colombia

See QUAKE, Page 10

# Ford Secures Deal To Buy Volvo Cars

U.S. Firm to Pay \$6.5 Billion To Bolster Presence in Europe

By Tom Buerkle

LONDON - Ford Motor Co. said Thursday it had agreed to buy the automobile division of Volvo AB for \$6.5 billion, a deal that is expected to strengthen the position of the world's No. 2 automaker and step up the pressure for further consolidation in the industry.

Faced with the dannting investment required to keep its cars competitive and the likelihood of faster consolidation in the auto industry following Daimler-Benz AG's acquisition of Chrysler Corp., Volvo decided its car division would prosper best in the hands of Ford, the world's most profitable

It was "a difficult emotional decision to take," the Volvo chief executive, Leif Johanssen, said, but based on the numbers, "this is a very good transaction."

Volvo will now concentrate its resources on developing its heavy truck and bus division, which ranks second in the world, as well as subsidiaries that make construction equipment and mar-

The Ford agreement culminated weeks of intensive bargaining over Volvo Cars, with the American company prevailing over a bid from Fiat SpA of Italy.

The acquisition would make Ford the

second-largest automaker in Europe, where its sales and profitability have flagged in recent years, and bring it younger, upscale customers in the United States, where Volvo has a significant and loyal following. "Volvo has a world-class reputation

for safety, quality, durability and en-vironmental responsibility, all of which are attributes that are increasingly important to our customers," said Jacques Nasser, chief executive of Ford.
"This fits perfectly well," said John Lawson of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.

in London. "This is the most obvious buyer and the most obvious seller in the

Volvo sold 400,000 cars last year, or less than I percent of the global market. To remain competitive it would have needed to invest heavily in new models and new technologies such as lean-burning engines and fuel cells.

"We were looking at big challenges," Mr. Johanssen said. In contrast, Ford has some of the deepest pockets of any corporation. The company sold 6.8 million cars in 1998, had an operating profit of \$6.57 billion and has cash assets of nearly \$24 bil-

The world's automakers have embarked on a crash course in consolidation, fueled by the DaimlerChrysler deal. Excess capacity is estimated at as much as 25 million vehicles a year

DaimlerChrysler and Renault SA of France are in talks with Nissan Motor Co. that could result in one of them buying a controlling stake in the No. 2 Japanese automaker. General Motors Corp., the world's largest automaker, is reportedly considering buying the 50 percent of Saab Automobile AB, Sweden's other automaker, that it does not already own.

Analysts and investment bankers said the Volvo purchase would focus greater attention on medium-sized automakers such as Fiat and PSA Pengeot Citroen of

But future deals may prove more difficult. Any combination within Europe would require politically difficult cuts in production and employment, issues that prevented Volvo from merging

See VOLVO, Page 10

	The Dollar	
New York	Thursday 6 4 P.M.	bisworm close
Euro	1.1416	1.1435
Pound	1.6493	1.6845
Yen	116.35	115,72
DM	1.713	1.7104
FF	5.7452	5.7384
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#### **Un-Line Kecords**

The Securities and Exchange Commission has reported a record amount of on-line trading — and a record number of complaints from small investors. Page 17.

# Senate Heading For a Timetable To Finish Trial In Mid-February

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON - Senators were struggling Thursday to reach agreement on a timetable to end the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton quickly, but they appeared to be on track for a mid-February completion date. And the White House indicated a cautious readiness to accept a draft plan if its legal options were kept open.

"We've been making progress," the majority leader, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, said as the trial session

Republicans press on, risking political damage. Page 3.

was convened and then immediately adjourned to allow negotiations to con.h-

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An hour later, Mr. Lott said he expected closed-door interviews between lawyers and three witnesses to begin Sunday and conclude by Tuesday. The chamber then adjourned again.

The White House legal team, comforted by the virtual certainty that the trial will end with President Clinton's acquittal, appeared cautious almost to the point of indecision about how to proceed, wary of any misstep at a crit-

But a White House spokesman exressed adamant opposition to a Republican proposal to give senators a chance to find Mr. Clinton guilty of the charges against him — perjury and obstruction of justice — without removing him from office. "What they're trying to do, in a

See CLINTON, Page 3

# 'We Will Deal With Our History'

Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister, Looks Ahead to Berlin Fischer exuded passion, describing the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, as a "murderous" politician who would have fit perfectly in the Europe of the

By Roger Cohen

BONN — Funny place, Germany. An environ-mentalist is about to direct the country's foreign policy from a Nazi-era Berlin building where Hitler stored gold stolen from Jews and the East German Communist leader Erich Honecker later held court.

"It is a puzzling prospect," said Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, a Green Party leader who will soon move from Bonn to a refurbished ministry in Hitler's former Reichsbank. "For me the most astonishing thing is that I will actually sit in the office of Mr. Honecker. But we will deal with our history.

Certainly Mr. Fischer has dealt with his own. A revolutionary agitator in the 1960s long known for a disheveled look featuring sneakers, he is now something of a dapper squire with a penchant for three-piece suits and somber ties. Every inch the minister, he sports black shoes that actually gleam.

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Cameroon...1.600 CFA Qatar.....

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renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and trashed So, too, do his eyes. During an interview. Mr.

...12.50 FF



Joschka Fischer listening to a debate over Germany's budget in the Bundestag on Thursday.

### AGENDA

#### U.S. General Dubious That North Korea Is Deploying Missiles

rea's military posture has changed little Nory Coast .1.250 CFA Tunisia \_\_\_\_\_\_1.250 Din Jordan .......1.250 JD U.A.E. \_\_\_\_\_10.00 Dh in the last two years and there is no evidence that it is deploying missiles following a long-range firing across Japan in August, the head of U.S. forces in Korea said Thursday. General John Tilelli said that North

Korean military readiness probably

WASHINGTON (AP) - North Ko- had diminished in recent months be cause of severe economic problem although the launching showed the the country's efforts to develop missi technology may have accelerated. He said he was hopeful North Kore

would agree to inspection of under ground facilities that U.S. official suspect of harboring nuclear activity

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Books	Page 9
Crossword	
Opinion	
Sports	Pages 18-19.
The IHT on-line	

# Bomb Kills 8 in China, **But Beijing Stays Silent**

By Erik Eckholm

BEIJING — An explosion this week in a county seat in southeastern China killed at least eight people and injured more than 60, according to local of-

The cause of the blast on Monday has not been determined, officials say, but a local journalist said there was evidence that it was intentional, and one doctor said victims had nails in their wounds. There has been no announcement of a suspect or a motive.

The blast in Yizhang, along the southern border of Hunan Province, only became widely known after a brief account appeared Wednesday night in a major newspaper in neighboring Guangdong Province. As of Thursday evening, China's official national news agency and Beijing newspapers had still

not reported it. The explosion occurred just after 11:00 A.M. in front of a row of grocery stalls and almost across the street from the county government office, a local television editor said in a telephone in-

terview. The explosion left remnants of victims' clothing hanging in the trees, according to the article Wednesday night in the Yangcheng Evening News. published in Guangzhou.

An official of the county hospital confirmed by telephone that eight people had died, one on the scene of the blast and seven more at the hospital. A doctor at another nearby hospital,

the Traditional Medicine Hospital, told Reuters news agency that nine had died. He also said there were nails in the victims' wounds, suggesting the possibility of a homemade nail bomb. Reached by telephone, an official of

the Yizhang Public Security Bureau would only say the case "is still under investigation." But an editor with the local cable

television station, Zong Zhijun, said: Preliminary investigation has found that the explosion was intentional and that hand-made explosives were

The explosion was the second this month in Hunan Province, which has

See CHINA, Page 10

# A New Breed of Lobbyists Shapes the Olympics

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

ORONTO After Salt Lake City lost the 1998 Winter Olympics to Nagano, Japan, the Salt Lake Olympic organizers vowed to change their strategy for the 2002 Games. One of their first moves was to hire a former member of Egypt's national volleyball team who had close personal contacts with athletic officials in North Africa.

The former volleyball Mahmoud Farnawani, a 65-year-old sports souvenirs salesman, is one of a new breed of global lobbyists playing an increasingly influential role in decisions about where to stage the

Olympics, Salt Lake City officials had ample reason to believe Mr. Farnawani could help them. After he worked as a volunteer for Toronto during its unsuc-

cessful campaign to win the 1996 Summer Games, the Australian Olympic Committee paid him \$60,000 to help Sydney secure the 2000 Summer

Games.

He earned his biggest payday so far, \$161,000, from Salt Lake City for his efforts to secure votes from North African delegates.

In a series of interviews, he compared his work to that of a lobbyist astutely identifying the preferences of key lawmakers. He explained, for instance, that he has used his knowledge of committee members to counsel bidders for the Olympics about how to use the information to their advantage. The information is often personal.

"Is he happily married or is he not?" Mr. Farnawani said, offering an example of information he might provide. "How many children does he have? Is he a religious person or not? What kind of food does he eat, what kind of subjects not to

THE BACKSTAGE role played by people like Mr. Farnawani has only recently come to light. Now Olympic officials are scram-bling to determine just how many of the consultants have been at work behind the scenes and if they might have ever gone too far. Investigations into Salt Lake City's payment of cash and gifts to Olympic committee members have not accused Mr. Farnawani or other similar lobbyists of wrong-doing, nor has anyone accused them of breaking any

laws or acting improperly.

But the North Africans courted by Mr. Farnawani have figured prominently in the Olympic movement's recently released report on abuses by Salt Lake City. A son of Libya's Olympic delegate received a scholarship to a Utah university and \$700 a month in payments. A Sudanese delegate received \$75,000 in cash

Mr. Farnawani, who is not currently working for any city, said he did not know of these arrangements and was surprised to read about them in news accounts. The Libyan delegate resigned from the was expelled from it Sunday.

Olympic officials said they were determined to impose much stricter rules on the lobbyists. Speakimpose much stricter rules on the lobbyists. Speaking generally of the lobbyists, Richard Pound, the senior Olympic official who conducted the International Olympic Committee's investigation into wrongdoing surrounding Salt Lake's efforts, said he and others were troubled by their work.

"We are looking into this issue of the so-called agents, who prey on the vulnerabilities and naïveté of bidding cities," Mr. Pound said. "By the time we are through with so-called Olympic agents, I doubt that it will be a profitable business — if it ever was."

it will be a profitable business — if it ever was."

Mr. Pound's report on the Salt Lake bid did not

accuse Mr. Farnawani of any specific wrongs.
Until the recent revelations, Olympic bids were



Mahmoud Farnawani, one of a new breed of Olympic lobbyists, worked for Salt Lake City.

awarded by a secret vote of the IOC, which com-prises more than 100 delegates. As they competed, officials seeking the games for a certain city found themselves pondering how they might sway a particular Olympic official.

The lobbyists were not bashful.

Doug Gatlin, executive director of Atlanta's sucsful effort to stage the 1996 Summer Games, recalled that local officials were besieged by middlemen. He said one offered to deliver votes for a fee of \$250,000.

a fee of \$250,000.

"So many people swarming around after you become a bid city" in advance of the voting, Mr. Gatlin recalled. "They are subtle. They say they can offer introductions, get you to the right people."

Lobbying by a city competing to host the Games has been around for a long time, but the use of outsiders paid large amounts of money is a recent

phenomenon, growing as the Games have become more profitable for the cities.

Mr. Farnawani is only one of several plying the trade. Salt Lake City used at least two other middlemen, a Kuwaiti and a Utah businessman. Sydney also had two other lobbyists, one of whom handled

Albright Asks Arab Aid In Ending Saddam Rule

What the bid commit-

For the Latin Ameri-

"I had a beautiful

She said she was not

African members of the committee.

"I was surprised by all this news," Mr. Farnawani said of the scholarships and payments. "I read it for the first time as everybody read it. It

was quite shocking for me."

He said he advised Salt Lake and Sydney that when a Muslim delegate was coming to their city.

there should be a Koran and a prayer rug in his hotel room and no alcohol in the minibar.

room and no alcohol in the minibar.

He acknowledges, however, that the cities were paying for more than his insights on Muslim culture: They were buying his personal relationships with Olympic officials.

According to documents made public by Australian Olympic officials, Mr. Farnawani was present at a Monte Carlo hotel in September 1993 when the Olympic committee voted, 45-to-43, to give Sydney the 2000 Games over Beijing. The night before, the documents show, Australian officials met with two African delegates and promised their respective Olympic committees a total of \$70,000. They confirmed their arrangement the morning of the vote in a letter.

morning of the vote in a letter.
"This morning," read the letter, "Mahmoud el-Farnawani is meeting with you with full authority to

commit me in respect to any assistance you identi-

fy." Mr. Farnawani said he could not account for

votes of the five members from the Arab states of North Africa: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and

Two of those delegates have been caught in the scandal. Bashir Attarabulsi, from Libya, resigned after it was divulged that his son had received a scholarship and \$700 a month in expense money

from the Salt Lake City bid committee. And Zein El

Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir, of Sudan, was expelled

after investigators concluded that he received more

than \$25,000 from the Salt Lake City bid committee

Mr. Farnawani described both men as his good

These people," Mr. Farnawani said of the com-

friends and he denied knowing anything about the

mittee members, "I knew them for a long time, so

they will not do anything to hurt their image before

me. Nobody will dare to ask for anything like that

from me. And the bid city never asked me to do this

Mr. Farnawani's lawyer, David Goodman, as-

serted that the agents were being made scapegoats.

Mr. Goodman said there was nothing wrong with a

for his personal benefit.

kind of thing.

city's hiring agents.

FTER SYDNEY'S close victory, Mr.

Farnawani won a recommendation that led to his being hired by the Salt Lake City bid team. His task was to lobby for the She Stops in Jordan to Support New Heir

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

AMMAN, Jordan — On a quick swing through Arab capitals that ended here, the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, assured friendly leaders Thursday that the United States was serious about ending Saddam' Hussein's rule in Iraq and asked for their assistance.

and asked for their assistance.

She told them the new U.S. policy, which she described as "containment plus regime change," represented a long-term commitment by the Clinton administration to combine military, political, economic and diplomatic pressure on Mr. Saddam, according to senior officials traveling with her.

The step in lorden was added to her

The stop in Jordan was added to her schedule to show support for Crown Prince Abdullah, who was swom in Wednesday as his father, King Hussein, returned to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for a new round of cancer treatment.

"I wanted to stop here in order to make very clear that the U.S. stands with Jordan." Mrs. Albright said after her talks with Abdullah. She said Washher talks with Abdullah. She said Washington looked forward to the king's recovery, but U.S. officials pointedly expressed confidence in Abdullah's abilities and insisted they expected no change in Jordanian policy if the prince, a career soldier, became king.

Although it was essentially a courtesy call, Mrs. Albright said she and the crown prince talked briefly about Iraqued to her that "our policy."

and she repeated to him that "our policy is to contain Saddam and work toward

regime change there."

Her public comments and background briefings by senior aides underlined the extent to which Washington's strategy for dealing with Iraq has changed since Mr. Saddam cut off UN weapons inspections last year. Con-vinced that no credible inspection system can be reinstated while Mr. Saddam rules Iraq, the United States is marshaling resources to get rid of him, and until he is ousted it will use military force to keep him from making trouble.

"The Iraqi people deserve better leadership," Mrs. Albright told U.S. troops Thursday morning at the Prince Sulfan Air Base, in the desert south of Riyadh. "We are dedicated to that mission and we don't give up before the job sion, and we don't give up before the job is finished. So it's not going to be real soon that you're out of here, but it is very important that you are here."

On Wednesday, Mrs. Albright re-

viewed the new policy with the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. She then flew to Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, for talks with Crown Prince Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz and Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal that lasted well past midnight.

Given the half-hearted and fitful U.S.

attempts to build up opposition to Mr. Saddam this new policy has been greeted with skepticism in the Arab world.

Thursday morning, two Saudi-owned newspapers in London quoted an unidentified Saudi official as saying the kingdom opposed any foreign role in changing Iraq's government and that any change should "take place from within Iraq and by the people them-

Senior U.S. officials did not claim that Mr. Mubarak or Prince Abdullah of Sandi Arabia endorsed the U.S. campaign or offered to help, but they said leaders of both countries were sympathetic to the idea that Iraq's people, isolated and impoverished by years of tight economic sanctions, deserved new leadership. They said Mr. Mubarak and Prince Abdullah asked them not to say anything about what assistance, if any,

they promised to provide.
"What I heard at the last two stops is a deep conviction that the only way out is a change of regime," a senior official said after Mrs. Albright left Saudi Arabia.

Judging from the private comments of administration officials, as well at the converse of the con

Albright and General Anthony Zimi, commander of the Southern Command, the Clinton administration appears convinced that Mr. Saddam was seriously weakened inside Iraq by U.S. air strikes last month. U.S. officials also said the Iraqi leader undercut his political stature throughout the Arab world with his recent calls for the overthrow of the Egyptian and Saudi leaders. Further, U.S. officials said the reputation of Iraq's exile opposition for fecklessness and ineptitude is undeserved.

There is serious opposition to Saddam Hussein inside Iraq, people are paying with their lives every day," a senior official said. "And outside there are many groups that have links inside Iraq, who can communicate a new vision of Iraq" to their sympathizers at home. "People go in and out. The gime can't stop that."

Mrs. Albright introduced the Egyptian and Saudi leaders to Frank Ricciardone, whom she recently appointed sition of Iraq, funded by Congress with \$97 million. Mr. Ricciardone, who will coordinate the effort to organize the opposition, understands the difficulty of his task. As deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Turkey, he was responsible for evacuating thousands of CIA-sponsored Iraqi dissidents when Mr. Saddam s troops overran their operations in northern Iraq in 1996.

■ King Hussein "Feeling Better"

King Hussein was "feeling better" Phursdayafter spending his fürst night at the Mayo Clinic, Reuters reported. A senior Jordanian official said doctors. would decide soon whether to proceed with a bone marrow transplant. "We do not know yet but they will decide in the next few days," the official said.

### August Everding, 70, Director Of Bavaria's State Theater, Dies

MUNICH - August Everding, 70, who served as Bavaria's state theater director since 1982 and also produced operas in New York, died late Tuesday. ARD-TV news said the cause of death was cancer.

Dubbed the "friendly despot," Mr. Everding was known for his strong personality and sometimes impish ideas. His many productions included stints at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He co-designed Wagner's "Lohen-grin" in the 1970s and he directed Mod-

est Mussorgsky's "Khovanshchina." He was also artistic director for the German display at the world's fair in Hannover in 2000.

Charles Luckman, 89, Architect LOS ANGELES (Renters) — Charles Luckman, 89, the entrepreneur and architect once described as the "boy wonder of American business,"

died Tuesday.

chitect but first found success in the soap business. Time magazine put the soap salesman on its cover in 1937 as the

"boy wonder" of American industry. In 1950, he established his architecture firm in Los Angeles, where he mixed his design ideas with conservative business principles, introducing market research to architecture. He helped design the Prudential Center in Boston, New York's Madison Square Garden and several Los Angeles landmarks.

Thomas C. Mann, 87, Diplomat WASHINGTON (NYT) — Thomas C. Mann, 87, a career diplomat and an architect of a switch in the 1960s to a U.S. foreign policy in Latin America emphasizing free enterprise, died Salurday at his home in Austin, Texas.

He played important foreign policy.

roles involving many countries. In 1964 he arranged help for Eduardo Frei Montalva, a moderate, in defeating Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist, to become president of Chile.

#### TRAVEL UPDATE

#### **Road to Inca Ruins** In Peru Is Blocked

LIMA (AP) - A flood caused by a landslide has blocked the train to the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu, cutting the

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only land route to Peru's top tourist attraction. Tourists can only reach the ruins high in the Andes mountains by taking a helicopter, which costs three times as much as the train trip, the authorities said.

Train service to Machu Picchu from the nearby city of Cuzco, 560 kilometers

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(350 miles) southeast of Lima, will be suspended for at least 20 days while workers repair the track, a Transport Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Boost for Asia Tourism

SINGAPORE (AP) — Southeast

Asia is still a safe place for tourists, despite negative publicity stemming from turnoil in some parts of the area, regional officials said Thursday.

Ministers from the Association of South East Asian Nations were gathering to find ways to bolster the flagging

tourist business in the area. The ministers also pledged to ac-celerate liberalization of investment in tourism-related businesses across Southeast Asia.

U.S. students planning to spend spring break in the Caribbean resort of Cancun, Mexico, are being warned to keep their fun under control. The tourism office of Quintana Roo State is starting an ad campaign aimed at quelling "im-proper behavior," officials said. (AP)

A month after a tourist was fatally injured at Disneyland, the theme park

in Anaheim, California, is beginning a ride by-ride review of how all its attractions are run.

Cyprus Airways planes were grounded Thursday for four hours when employees went on strike to press for high-



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#### THE AMERICAS

# Clinton Case Focuses On Obstruction Charge

# Witnesses Were Chosen to Support That Count

By Eric Schmitt New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - House Republican prosecutors say they have chosen lican prosecutors say they have chosen three witnesses who can help them make the broadest and strongest case that President Bill Clinton obstructed justice, the impeachment article that has drawn the most interest from senators of both parties.

Include in size of the say were Mr. Jurdan's efforts, at the White House's urging, to help find Ms. Lewinsky a job in New York and buy her silence.

Finally, the managers had to choose between Mr. Blumenthal and John both parties. both parties.

When the trial started three weeks ago, the House prosecutors were sure that their best chance of convicting Mr. Clinton lay in convincing the senators that the president had lied under oath before a federal grand jury about his relationship with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

But since then, senators squeamish about the sexual aspects of the perjury charge have focused on obstruction of justice as the article most likely to rise to the level of an impeachable offense. The question now, in many senators' minds, "Did it happen?

"Some of us feel very strongly about the second count, and we need witnesses to help on that," said Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon, one of the 56 senators — all but one of them Republicans — who voted Wednesday in favor of subpoenaing Ms. Lewinsky, the president's confident Vernon Jordan Jr. and the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal.

The obstruction article charges Mr. Clinton with having encouraged Ms. Lewinsky to file a false affidavit in the sexual-misconduct lawsuit filed against the president by Paula Jones and to conceal gifts he had given Ms. Lewinsky. It contends that the president enlisted Mr. Jordan's help in finding Ms. Lewinsky a job to buy her cooperation in the Jones suit, and it accuses the president of attempting to influence the testimony of his secretary, Betty Currie, and yop aides such as Mr. Blumenthal.

"The senators seem to relate the perjury charge to sex and the president's twisting definitions," said Representative Ed Bryant, Republican of Tennessee, the House manager who will question Ms. Lewinsky. "It's an easier sell job with obstruction of justice. It's about

Representative Asa Hutchinson, Republican of Arkansas, the manager who will interview Mr. Jordan, said, "Obstruction of justice is extraordinarily compelling and goes to the heart of our judicial system.

Under pressure from Senate Republicans, the House prosecutors pared their wish list of witnesses from 15 to five and finally to three.

In the end, they left out the one witness whom many Republicans had considered a secret weapon — Mrs. Currie disappointing some senators who apparently believed she had the most po-

tential to clarify factual discrepancies. "It was a question of making judicious decisions as to which witnesses would give us the best chance to try to convert people into a vote for conviction," said Representative George Ge-

rding, 70, Directe

. State Theater

kas, Republican of Pennsylvania. Ms. Lewinsky is the managers' star witness and had a guaranteed spot in the lineup. But the managers shuffled and reshuffled their final two choices as they gauged both the mood of the Senate and their own analysis of which witnesses

They decided to drop Mrs. Currie, some managers said Wednesday, because the secretary's testimony about the president's recollections of his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky seemed immovable. Mr. Clinton's lawyers have repeatedly insisted that Mrs. Currie testified that she Adid not feel pressured when Mr. Clinton uttered a series of statements about Ms. Lewinsky in which he claimed to Mrs. Currie that they were never alone.

could swing wavering senators.

House prosecutors have interpreted the president's actions as witness-tampering, saying Mr. Clinton was coaching Mrs. Currie about what to say if she were ever called as a witness.

The prosecutors also said they did not need Mrs. Currie's deposition because, in their view, Ms. Lewinksy's testimony was sufficient to support their accusations that Mr. Clinton had directed Mrs. Currie to pick up gifts that were under subpoena by the lawyers for Mrs. Jones. Privately, some said a reason Mrs.

Currie was not called is that the prosecutors, already reviled in the public view according to many opinion polls, did not want to be seen as grilling a sympathetic African-American woman in the Senate.

Senate Republicans, including Susan Collins of Maine and Paul Coverdell of Georgia, expressed surprise and disappointment that the managers had decided not to summon Mrs. Currie.

Democratic senators accused the managers of disregarding their pretext

#### Man With Explosives Is Arrested at Senate

Washington Post Service WASHINGTON - A Maryland man with tickets to the Senate impeachment trial was arrested last week when he tried to bring a bag containing an 18-inch knife and two explosives

into the Capitol, according to authorities.
Capitol police stopped Walter Wilson
Johnson, 36, on Jan. 20 when they checked the bag on an X-ray machine, officials said Wednesday. At the time, President Bill Clinton's lawyers, led by his special counsel Gregory Craig, were presenting their second day of opening arguments before a crowded Senate chamber. Mr. Johnson told the police he kept the knife for "protection," authorities said.

Capitol police said a search of Mr. Johnson's bag also turned up two M-60 explosive devices, a "terrorist handbook," weapons price lists, an article on the Oklahoma City bombing, survivalist materials and a Soldier 

for calling witnesses - to clarify con-

flicting testimony. The prosecutors opted to summon Mr. Jordan instead of Mrs. Currie to

Podesta, the White House chief of staff, as to who would best illustrate the accusation that Mr. Clinton lied to his aides in an attempt to influence their possible testimony about his relation-

Ship with Ms. Lewinsky.

Mr. Blumenthal told the grand jur that the president had at first described Ms. Lewinsky as a "stalker" and said she had "threatened" to tell people "firey'd had an affair." Those descriptions also were used by some House prosecutors to try to prove that the White House had employed a strategy of leaks or spreading negative stories about opponents or po-



side of the rule of law? It just doesn't measure up."

The historian Michael Beschloss agreed that the

party-line vote on dismissal, which may foreshadow a

largely partisan division on conviction or acquittal at

the trial's end, had made it more difficult for historians

of the future to judge the impeachment of Mr. Clinton

trial to look good before the bar of history," he said

Mr. Beschloss said it was far from clear how history

would judge the past year. "Will they say Bill Clinton

was unfairly persecuted or will they say this was a case

where Republicans in the House and Senate stood up for a matter of principle that was against their political interests?" he asked.

It is possible, perhaps even likely, that a few Republicans will vote against convicting Mr. Clinton on

the two articles of impeachment when the Senate

finally votes. But that may be more helpful to the

defectors and their own political standing than to the

Many Democratic strategists have long sensed that

the House vote to impeach Mr. Clinton presented

Democrats with a win-win situation. They argue that a

short Senate trial leading to Mr. Clinton's acquittal

would undermine the legitimacy of the House vote.

But a long Senate trial, they said, could damage the

depose witnesses represents the further isolation of

congressional Republicans, who have been driven by

Many Republican governors, while condemning the

president's conduct, have warned for weeks that the

Senate should find a quick way to end the trial.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, Republican of

Mississippi, has labored mightily to satisfy his divided

party. The question is whether his efforts to reach across

The challenge for Mr. Lott and other Republican

leaders is clear. Having corralled moderate Repub-

lican votes to compel the testimony of Ms. Lewinsky,

Vernon Jordan and the White House aide Sidney

Blumenthal to satisfy the party's ideological wing,

they must now engineer a conclusion that restores the

confidence of the American people that the party is

party lines on procedural issues will be washed away by

mostly party-line votes on the key issues.

listening to them as well.

To some analysts, the Republicans' decision to

Republicans even more than events already have.

"It makes it tougher for the impeachment and the

as entirely legitimate.

Democratic senators lining up to speak to reporters outside the Senate's chambers after the vote to call witnesses in the Clinton impeachment trial. From left are Max Baucus of Montana, Charles Schumer of New York, Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

# Republicans Press On, Risking Political Damage

By Dan Balz

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans find themselves in an excruciating position, torn between the judgment of the majority of the American people and the passions of their most conservative loyalists. A year and six days after the Monica Lewinsky story

broke, President Bill Clinton got an official reprieve Wednesday, despite condemnations of his conduct. Although the Senate refused to dismiss the case ainst the president, not even the most vehement Clinton opponent believes 11 Democratic votes for

conviction will materialize in the coming days. But in the face of that reality, Republicans unanimously decided Wednesday to press forward with depositions from three witnesses — even though a number of Republican senators had registered reservations about that course within the last few days.

Why did they feel compelled to keep going?
"One thing Republicans in the Senate can't do is throw a hand grenade at the feet of their own base," said the party consultant Ralph Reed.

But the need to assuage those conservatives comes at a growing price. With the trial's outcome now apparent, the longer it drags on, the more potential damage Republicans inflict upon themselves — both in the elections of 2000 and in the eyes of history. As John Pitney, a professor at Claremont McKenna College in California, put it, "Right now, people think

of impeachment and Republicans in the same Senator Russell Feingold, were on the wrong side of thought."

Nothing is likely to change that impression between now and the end of the trial House Republicans created this problem, but Senate

Republicans are responsible for trying to solve it. And the more they attempt to accommodate the House managers - and their own conservative base --- on procedural ques-

tions, they more they risk reinforcing ANALYSIS the partisan divisions that have marked the impeachment process since it was begun in Mr. Reed said most conservatives were resigned to

an outcome that leaves Mr. Clinton condemned in some fashion but still in office. "I think they're not seeking to hold Republican senators' feet to the fire on conviction, but on a display of moral courage and a fair and complete trial," he said.

But historians said Wednesday that the continued partisan divisions over whether Mr. Clinton should be

impeached and convicted for his conduct in the Lewinsky matter risked stamping the whole process as a bitter political fight, not a reasoned, legal process.

"It's going to be all the more difficult," said Robert

Dallek, a historian and presidential biographer, "for historians to take the Republican argument about the rule of law all that seriously,'

Pointing to the dismissal vote Wednesday, he added: "Is it conceivable that all but one Democrat, Wisconsin

### **CLINTON:** Senate Continues Jousting on Trial Timetable

Continued from Page 1

very political way, is construct a procedure where they can convict the president but not remove him," said the White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart. He added, "The constitution is clear. The Senate has one role, which is to convict and remove" or to acquit.

With strong Republican support for a final outcome that will not allow Mr. Clinton to claim exoneration or vindication, it was unclear how the matter would be

The nearly party-line margin during two votes Wednesday made it clear that there was virtually no chance

Mr. Clinton would be removed from office. Mr. Lockhart also denied a New York Times report that a split had emerged among Mr. Clinton's legal team over how vigorously to press the defense strategy at a time when the endgame was clearly in sight.

Mr. Lott and his Democratic counterpart, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, along with other Senate leaders have been locked in a series of meetings, hammering out proposals to conclude the trial by mid-Mr. Lott said Democrats did not want videotapes to

be made of the depositions of Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose sexual relationship with the president sparked impeachment; Vernon Jordan Jr., the Washington attorney and Clinton

friend who tried to help Ms. Lewinsky find a job, and Sidney Blumenthal, a White House adviser. The depositions will involve swom testimony by the

three before House "managers" prosecuting the case,

members of Mr. Clinton's legal team and one senator from each party. Democrats, who have strenuously opposed the calling of any witnesses, presumably were concerned that in the event of unfavorable testimony, videotapes

would have a greater impact on senators than written The Senate voted Wednesday not to dismiss the trial but to call the three witnesses. Those votes, almost precisely on party lines, left the Senate unsure exactly

how to proceed with the questioning of witnesses, the form in which their testimony will be presented to senators and what additional votes will be taken. White House lawyers had told Mr. Daschle that they would accept an accelerated trial schedule if no damaging new information emerged from the three witnesses and if there is no live testimony before the Senate, senior presidential advisers told The Asso-

ciated Press. The Clinton team reportedly wants to reserve an opportunity to review documents and possibly call its own witnesses in the event of surprises. Mr. Lockhart said that Republican proposals to vote.

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nonnced plans to increase fines for harboring

dogs found to be dangerous, to deny dogs any

consideration for being provoked into barking

or biting and to require owners of pit bulls to

obtain \$100,000 in liability insurance. (NYT)

Damage suits against the handgun in-dustry were filed by Miami and Dade

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The new ordinance also limits minors' access

• Clemency was rejected for an inmate

scheduled to be executed next week in

McAlester, Oklahoma, for three slayings he

committed as a 16-year-old.

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to the pointers.

**Away From Politics** 

separately on Mr. Clinton's guilt regarding the charges the party's ideological hard-liners since the party took ing him and whether to remove him from office power in the 1994 elections. were unacceptable.

Republicans, however, appeared unwilling to accept a trial plan that does not give them the opportunity to express a view on Mr. Clinton's guilt in first denying and then misrepresenting his relationship with Ms.

They fear that there is no certainty to a vote on censure that would come after Mr. Clinton's expected acquittal. A censure, in any case, could be reversed by a future Senate.

Democrats have continued to work on the language of a censure resolution, which would condemn the president's conduct while avoiding legally charged words like "guilt" or "convict."

"I think there is a widespread feeling on both sides of the aisle that some expression of the inappropriateness of the behavior is a good idea," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky.

Mr. Lockhart conceded that the Republicans' 55-to-45 majority in the upper chamber would allow them to pursue the two-vote strategy if they chose. A simple majority of 51 votes would be required to approve such. an approach. Sixty-seven votes are needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office if all 100 senators are

The White House took heart at the Senate vote Wednesday on dismissal of the trial, which was defeated, 56-to-44, but showed that Republicans had virtually no chance of attaining the two-thirds vote needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office.

White House lawyers are deeply concerned, however, about the possibility that the president might be tarred with something resembling a criminal conviction for perjury and obstruction of justice, particularly since he will be vulnerable to criminal prosecution once be leaves office.

A proposal along these lines was advanced by Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, who is part of a small working group appointed by Mr. Lott to seek ways in which senators can express their condemnation of Mr. Clinton short of removing him from

A Democratic senator, Richard Bryan of Nevada, said such a vote would seem to skirt the constitution. We should not be able to do by majority vote what the constitution contemplates by a two-thirds vote," he

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, a Republican and the influential chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on Thursday strongly supported a "finding of fact" vote. "I've been arguing for that type of a vote for a long time," he said. "I think that's a legitimate, reasonable

### **Bob Edwards** in Edinburgh?

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#### POLITICAL

#### Bush Is Still Sitting Firmly on the Fence

AUSTIN, Texas — Governor George Bush, who has sometimes expressed discomfort with the relentless speculation over whether he will run for president in 2000, brought the matter up himself in his State of the State address, saying legislators should seize this tional spotlight" to teach Washington lawmakers a thing or two.

I have been asked about it, you have been asked about it," Mr. Bush told the legislators. "You didn't ask for it, but it is here anyway.

'And we can either view it as a distraction or seize it as an opportunity to show the world what limited and constructive governmeat looks like."

The 31 members of the state Senate, which the Republicans control by one vote, joined the 150 members of the House of Representatives.

where the Democrats have an eight-vote majority, to hear Mr. Bush. Widely regarded as the front-runner in the race for the Republican presidential nomination next year, the governor has said he will not announce whether he will run until March or April, when he will either establish an exploratory committee, say he is definitely in the race or take himself out of it.

Mr. Bush has played host in recent weeks to a stream of potential fund-raisers and presidential advisers — to help him make up his mind, he has said — and political professionals in several smies have said he has asked them not to commit to another Republican candidate until he makes his decision.

"People keep asking me, will I or won't I?" he said Wednesday. "The big answer to the question is, I really don't know yet." (NYT)

#### Help for Workers

WASHINGTON — Aiming to improve workers' skills, President Bill Clinton is proposing \$965 million in new and increased spending to retrain dislocated workers, teach illiterate adults to read and increase job opportunities for at-risk youth.

The latest details from the budget that Mr. Clinton outlined in his State of the Union address include increased grants for adult literacy programs, a toll-free number that connects displaced workers to unemployment and retraining resources and \$50 million to create

jobs for disadvantaged youngsters. The proposals call for \$190 million in increased spending in fiscal 2000 over last year's figures for programs, \$368 million more for job retraining assistance and \$405 million to increase youth employ-

#### Quote/Unquote

Paul Begala, a White House adviser, reacting to a suggestion that Republican senators owed it to their House colleagues not to dismiss the impeachment case: "That's like saying the Titanic owed something

#### AIRPORT AUTHORITY

#### Janitorial Service for the **Northwest Concourse** Hong Kong International Airport

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The Authority is looking for a substantial janitorial service organisation to undertake this contract. Parties interested in this opportunity can register with the Authority, in writing, for an Expression of Interest Document. This document asks a series of questions, responses to which must be received by 1 p.m. on 26 February 1999. Late returns will not be considered. Responses will be evaluated in order to draw up a short list of potential contractors. To receive a copy of the Expression of Interest Document, please contact :

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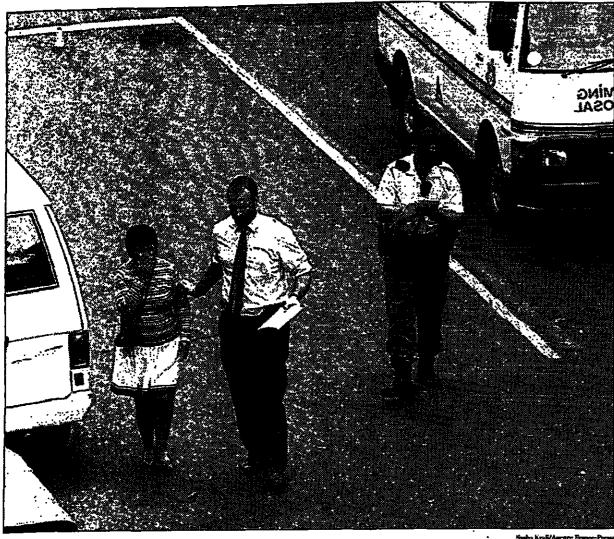
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#### INTERNATIONAL



Police officers in Cape Town escorting a passer-by shaken by a bomb explosion near the main police station.

# **Bomb in Central Cape Town Wounds 11**

By Donald G. McNeil Jr. New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG - The third bomb in five months went off in central Cape Town on Thursday, wounding 11

people at the entrance to the city's main police station. No one took responsibility for the explosion, which the police tentatively said involved a pipe bomb left in a garbage can. The police said they were questioning two people, whom they did

not identify. Four of the injured, none of them police officers, had serious burns or shrapnel wounds from the blast, which took place just after I P.M. outside the

Caledon Square station. Blue shreds of the garbage can littered the street next to a shattered green Volkswagen, and blood was spattered around the area, local news

Cape Town is in the grip of a threeway war involving the police, gangs of criminals and conservative Muslim vi-

Both the gangs, which are rich with drug money, and the vigilantes are based in the luge mixed-race Cape Flats neighborhoods outside the central city, near the airport.

The vigilantes, most prominently an

imam-led group calling itself People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, are suspected of setting many bombs to kill drug dealers and police officers.

They are also suspected of the two major blasts in a tourist area, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

The first exploded in a crowded Planet Hollywood restaurant on Aug. 25, killing two people and wounding 25. It was presumably a form of retaliation against the United States, which had just fired cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan into suspected terrorist sites. as a response to that operation.

The second, on Jan. 2, blew up cars outside a theater that was to show "The Siege," an American film in which the villains are Muslim fundamentalist ter-

No one has been charged in the blasts, but the police said the two bombs and those used against drug dealers and police substations had design similarities.

The police have been trying hard to

infiltrate the vigilante group, with little apparent success. Last year, a police captain who was heading one of the investigations was shot and killed in his car by several gunmen after he stopped to help a motorist.

Blaming the vigilantes for that killing, the police and government announced Operation Good Hope, a joint police-army operation to restore law and order to the Cape Town area.

Local news commentators said the blast Thursday appeared to be intended

# Pope Condemns Death Penalty

Citing Appeal, Missouri's Governor Commutes a Killer's Sentence

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Preaching consistency in moral values. Pope John Paul II urged American Catholics to extend the crusade to protect human life to include murderers on death row.

The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are moonditionally pro-life," the Pope preached to 100,000 people in the Trans World Sports Dome, a football stadium. 'Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."

He called the death penalty "cruel and nanecessary," even in the case of a criminal who "has done great evil." The Pope has often urged an end to

the death penalty, but his speech Wednesday was the most explicit statement against capital punishment he has made in the United States. [Governor Mel Camahan of Missouri

without parole, citing a personal plea by the Pope, The Associated Press report-

["I continue to support capital pun-ishment, but after careful consideration

of his direct and personal appeal and because of a deep and abiding respect for the pontiff and all he represents, I decided

last night to grant his request," he said. {Darrell Mease, convicted of murdering a drug partner and two others in southwestern Missouri in 1988, had been scheduled to die Wednesday. His execution was postponed in December by the Missouri Supreme Court, apparently because of the Pope's visit to St. Louis, which ended Wednesday.]

At the Mass on Wednesday, some in the audience expressed deep reverence for the Pope but disagreement with his teachings on capital punishment.

"I am here because I really believe," said Araminta Rincon, a translator who had arrived at the site at 3 A.M. from Green Bay, Wisconsin. "I am a believing Catholic, and I love this Pope." But she, like others, said she also believed in the death penalty: "In some ways, it's very sad. But there is no other way — some people are just very, very bad."

This 30-hour stop was the 78-year-old Pope's fifth pastoral visit to the on Thursday commuted the death sentence of a convicted murderer to life United States, and once again, he found himself confronting one of the chief frustrations of his papacy: Many American Catholics display a stubborn independence from Vatican teaching.

The Pope, who stopped in St. Louis after an episcopal meeting in Mexico to instruct North Americans about their responsibility to the world in the new

Peace

millennium, also had to remind Carl, olics to heed the basic tenets of train In his homily, the Pope mentioned some of the moral issues that divide

Americans and many Catholics else-"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted

suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love?" he asked. In visiting St. Louis, the Pope chose a metropolitan area that is close to 55

percent Catholic. But his message was also aimed at the nation at large, and before leaving St. Louis on Wednesday night, he held an evening prayer service at the St. Louis Cathedral for about 2,000 people, including Vice President Al Gore and Representative Dick Gephardt, Demo-crat of Missouri, and their wives.

The Pope told his audience that as the only superpower, the United States was a model for the rest of the world.

model for the rest of the world.

"Radical change in world politics leaves America with a heightened responsibility to be for the world an example of a genuinely free, democratic. just and humane society," he said.

John Paul II, who was the first Pope to apologize openly for the failure of many Catholics to resist the Nazi policy of exterminating Jews during World War II, has tried to make ecumenism and reconciliation with the Jews a ballmark of his papacy. A rabbi, Robert, executive vice president of the St. Louis rabbinical association, gave a biblical reading about a prophecy of the renewal of Zion at the vesper-service, giving the opening in Hebrew. The Pope has visited synagogues and prayed with rabbis at interfaith services, but this was the first time a rabbi had given a reading at a Catholic service officiated by the Pope.

After vespers, the Pope walked out of

the basilica and shook hands with Rosa Parks, the civil-rights heroine of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott in 1955. Mrs. Parks, who will turn 86 in February, rose from her wheelchair to shake the Pope's hand.

The ailing Pope, whose voice is slurred as the result of Parkinson's disease, was at times difficult to understand. At the football stadium, giant screens included captioned text of his remarks. He seemed buoyed by the enthusiasm of his audiences, but outside, the fervor at times melted away. Though there were some areas where the crowds were six people deep, other sidewalks along his parade route were empty.

# **Israel Names Security Chief**

Challengers Assail Netanyahu for Creating Council

TEL AVIV-Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu Thursday announced the formation of a National
Security Council headed by a former
Defease Ministry director. David ister, told Israel Radio.

"The national security adviser will increase and tighten coordination and cooperation between government offices in national security issues," Mr.

As defense minister, mr. productional had opposed the step, saying excitating security forums were adequate.

"The National Security Council is

of the air force, would help develop press conference national security policy that integrates "The council military, strategic, intelligence and economic affairs. He said the new council would report to the prime which are directly related to the se-

Mr. Netanyahu's move was attacked by his two main challengers in Israeli-U.S. cooperation in countering the May general election. Ehud Barak the development of missiles and nonand the former defense minister, conventional weapons in the region in Yitzhak Mordechai, as creating un- line with a strategic accord signed necessary bureaucracy.

"Where is the logic to setting up a year, he said.

National Security Council four months before the elections?" Mr.

As defense minister, Mr. Morde-

Netanyahu said.

He said Mr. Ivry, 64, a former chief
nation," Mr. Netanyahu said at a
nress conference. a vital function for the security of the

"The council will examine geopolitical, economic, technological and communications interests, all of curity of the state," he said.

between the two countries late last (Reuters, AFP)

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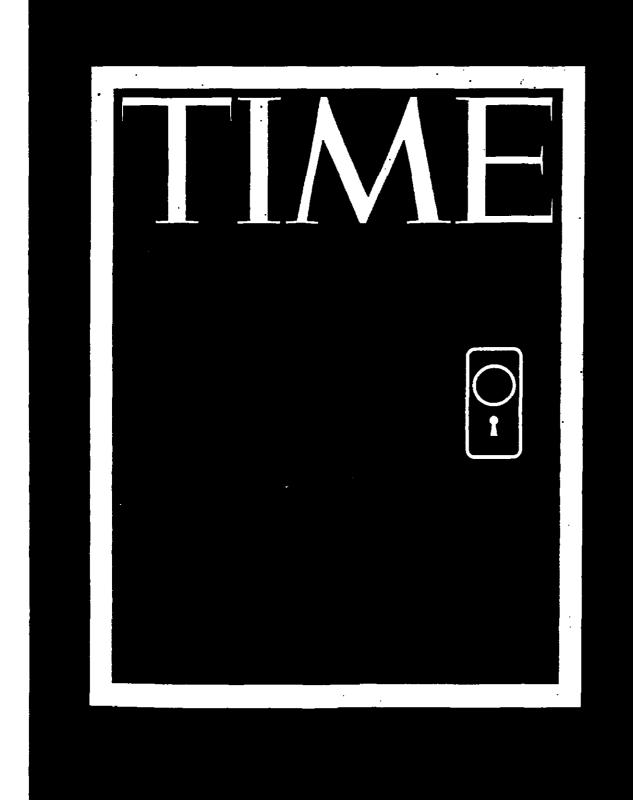
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#### **EUROPE**

# Cruel Ulster Beatings

Acts of Revenge Imperil Prisoner Releases

By T. R. Reid Washington Post Service

LONDON — The springtime of peace that brought hope to Northern Ireland last year has deteriorated into a winter of brutal beatings and violent death, putting serious strains on the peace process and tarnishing the greatest political achievement of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Mr. Blair bristled on the floor of Parliament on Wednesday as he struggled to respond to opposition leaders — and a few members of his own Labour Party — who said it was time for the government to crack down on the sectarian street armies believed to be responsible for a recent outbreak of what are called "punishment beatings,'

As part of the Good Friday agreement last year, intended to end three decades of conflict in the British province, Prime Minister Blair's government has been granting early release to prisoners in Northern Ireland jails, including several members of Roman Catholic and Protestant paramilitary groups who had

been serving life terms for murder. For their part, the paramilitary groups are required by the agreement to honor a

cease-fire and a pledge of nonviolence. With some cruel exceptions, this trade-off has served to preserve a gen-eral state of peace among the 1.6 million residents of Northern Ireland.

But this winter, a wet, cold and generally dismal time of year in the province, has brought a series of attacks n which armed squads have assaulted individuals with guns, baseball bats or iron tools, often breaking bones. Some of the victims have bled to death. Others

have been crippled or blinded.
On Wednesday, the police found the battered corpse of Eamon Collins, a former member of the Irish Republican Army, the predominantly Catholic guerrilla group that advocates an end to British rule in Northern Ireland and union with the Irish Republic.

Mr. Collins broke with the IRA and wrote a book, "Killing Rage," detailing its violent practices.

The police had no immediate explanation for Mr. Collins's death, but the victim said many times that he had been targeted for retribution by the IRA.
This has prompted Mr. Blair's op-

ponents to say that his program of prisoner releases is a mistake and should be stopped. Traditionally, Britain's major political parties have buried their dif-



Mary Quinn, a resident of Dungannon. Northern Ireland, surveying a hole in her window caused Thursday by a hurled pipe bomb that did not explode. Authorities attributed the bomb to a wave of sectarian violence.

ferences on Northern Ireland. But the winter of violence sparked a long, tough and clearly partisan debate in the House of Commons. "Every time Blair releases another prisoner early, he throws away another negotiating card,' said William Hague, leader of the op-

position Conservative Party. Other Conservatives said that halting the release of prisoners would put pres-

sure on the paramilitary groups to stop the violence. Mr. Blair was clearly rattled by the accusation and angry that Northern Ire-

"What I would ask some of the honorable members opposite, who are shouting 'Disgrace!' and 'Shame!' at me, is to recognize the difficulty of this process." Mr. Blair retorted. "When they were in

land was being debated at all.

government, we gave them support in difficult as well as easy times.

The prime minister noted that the number of punishment beatings this winter was no greater than in previous years. To stop the prisoner releases might destroy the overall agreement, he said, and "bring this whole process to

But even within his own party, which normally shows impressive political discipline, Mr. Blair is facing opposition on the prisoner releases.

Another burst of beatings or killings - particularly now, with the political world and the media watching closely - could force the prime minister to make major changes in his approach to peace in Northern Ireland.

#### ■ Ulster Official Accuses IRA

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's first minister, accused the Irish Republican Army on Thursday of murdering Mr. Collins, saying it had again broken its cease-fire, Agence France-Presse reported from Belfast.

"I think it's fairly clear who murdered Mr. Collins," he said. "Presumably, the same people who burned his house and tried to run him over -

The Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, described Mr. Collins's murder as "regrettable," but he noted that the dead "many enemies in many man had

There was condemnation from Dublin, along with a plea not to let the murder thwart the peace accord.

#### BRIEFLY

#### Schroeder Admits Slips in '100 Days'

BONN - Faced with accusations of a chaotic governing style. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder acknowledged Thursday that he had set too hasty a pace in his first 100 days in office.

Mr. Schroeder's remarks, made during an interview, followed his center-left government's reversal this week on a timetable for abandoning nuclear power as well as earlier slips on issues of tax reform and social policy.

"We set a high tempo - sometimes too high a tempo - at the start in areas that were especially important to the coalition part-ners." Mr. Schroeder was quoted

as telling Der Tagesspiegel.

A liberal weekly. Die Zeit, scathingly summed up Mr. Schroeder's record under a headline, "One hundred weak days."

#### Spain and Britain In Fishing Quarrel

MADRID - Tensions between Spain and Britain mounted on Thursday in a fishing dispute off Gibraltar as diplomats scrambled to find a compromise and fishermen threatened to block the border to the British colony.

The Spanish government gave London a 72-hour ultimatum. which expires Saturday, to publicly affirm a verbal agreement made last October between the two nations on fishing rights or it would take unspecified action.

The latest tension comes after British and Gibraltar police seized a Spanish fishing boat Wednesday for illegally fishing with nets in Gibraliar waters.

#### Islam in Politics Worrying Ankara

ANKARA - Seeking to stop political parties from using religion in the campaign for April 18 elections, military leaders of Turkey conferred Thursday with government officials.

The military and the secular establishment worry that the Islamic Virtue Party, the largest party, will emerge a winner.

#### In Europe's Arctic Zone, the Freeze of the Century tigrade (minus 60.7 Fahrenheit) during out power. "It was full winter inside,"

OSLO — The northern fringe of Europe suffered its coldest weather of the century Thursday, and some Arctic regions of Russia have been gripped by a deep freeze as well.

In the Arctic stretches of Finland, Norway and Sweden, temperatures dipped under minus 51 centigrade (minus 60 Fahrenheit) Thursday. That is too cold for mercury ther-

mometers, which freeze at minus 39 centigrade (minus 38 Fahrenheit) and requires the use of alcohol-based ther-At those temperatures, warm water

tossed into the air outdoors will freeze before it hits the ground, as a Norwegian television station demonstrated for its report on the cold weather.

Northern Finland set a new national record for the second day in a row when the temperature fell to minus 51.5 centhe night in the town of Pokka. It was slightly warmer in the Norwegian town of Karasjok, with an overnight low of minus 51.2 centigrade (minus 60.2 Fahrenheit), just shy of Norway's re-cord cold of minus 51.4 centigrade (minus 60.5 Fahrenheit) set in January

This is a record for the century," said Sigrid Naess, who monitors the official temperature in Karasjok, a town in Finnmark Province, Norway. "You just have to dress warm and build a fire n the fireplace." Electric power failed in many towns

in Arctic provinces, leaving people shivering inside their homes, although virtually all homes also have fireplaces or other forms of heating.

Alfred Jacobsen, 86, measured freezing temperatures indoors because his house in Mehamn, Norway, was with-

he was quoted as telling the Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang. In Finnish Lapland, about 5,000

people lost their electricity because power lines could not withstand the cold. "The metal power lines simply stretched and snapped under the pres-sure" from the cold, said Arto Miettinen, of the regional power company:

Compared to Norway and Finland. the night's low for northern Sweden was a relatively balmy minus 48.7 C (minus-55.7 Fahrenheit) in the town of /alkeakoski. That was still cold enough to stop

passenger trains in northern Sweden, since the air brakes used to stop them do not work at such low temperatures. Because air contracts in the cold, at extremely low temperatures there is not enough pressure to push the brakes.

The cold snap, which may last

through the weekend, was brought on by cold air coming from Siberian regions of Russia. News reports said temperatures as low as minus 55.6 centigrade (minus 68 Fahrenheit) were recorded in Siberia this week.

The Russian Weather Service said the deep chill was unusually long. "It's one thing to cope for a day when it's minus 50 outside, but it's a different thing altogether to spend several days in a row like that," a meteorologist said.

In some parts of the Kola Peninsula near Russia's border with Norway, the temperature fell at night to almost minus 56 centigrade (minus 69 Fahrenheit) in one village this week - the lowest in more than 100 years.

The meteorologist said a cyclone was bringing warmer weather and that temperatures would rise slightly Thursday and Friday as the cold front headed toward Western Europe. (AP. Reuters)

### ASIA/PACIFIC

# **Electoral Reforms Win** Approval in Indonesia

Parliament Dismantles Old Political System

The Associated Press JAKARTA — The Parliament approved political reforms Thursday for

election in Indonesia in four decades. After weeks of negotiations and last minute deal-making, the legislature unanimously passed three bills that will largely dismantle the tightly controlled political system that had backed former President Suharto's authoritarian rule

what is expected to be the most open

, since the early 1970s.

"Agreed," shouted lawmakers after
Lieutenant General Hari Subarno. deputy speaker of Parliament and head of its armed forces faction, asked them if they approved the bills. Many stood and

### Jakarta's Army **Yields to Shift** On East Timor

JAKARTA — The military is ready to comply with the "will of the people" if they want East the armed forces chief,

General Wiranto, said Thursday.
His comments followed an acknowledgment by the government Wednesday that it was prepared to grant East Timor independence.

The military would accept the people's wishes despite what he termed great sacrifices made and losses of life incurred by the Indonesian government and the military, General Wiranto said at the presidential palace.

If it is decided that East Timor is no longer part of Indonesia, of course we will comply with it," he said.

Private estimates have said the Indonesian armed forces lost about 20,000 men in the battle to take East Timor, which was invaded in 1975 after the , colonial power, Portugal, left. Some influential military officers now say no further effort should be made to hang on to the territory.

General Wiranto defended Indone-sia's annexation of the territory, saying it had been for the sake of the local

The East Timor integration was not a political mistake." he said. It was not a wrong decision but one that was very right at the time it was taken. It was intended to save the East Timorese from intended to save the East Timor its intended to save the East Timor its interally abandoned the territory."

Indenesia declared East Timor its intended to save the East Timor 27th province in 1976.

"We want to restate the govern-ment's promise to organize a fair and open election at whatever cost because this is the only way to create a credible government," said Lieutenant General Syarwan Hamid, who is the home affairs minister.

B.J. Habibie, who replaced President Suharto after riots and protests last May, has scheduled parliamentary elections

He says the ballot, expected to be the freest since 1955, will be democratic. Critics, however, say the changes, which reduce but do not abolish a political role for the powerful military, do

not go far enough.

During Mr. Suharto's rule, the Parliament had been largely a rubber stamp institution stacked with his supporters and friends. Under the new laws, elections, which

had been limited by Mr. Suharto to only three heavily regulated parties, will be opened up to a wide range of groups as long as they do not promote racial or religious problems and conform to a list of other broad requirements. More than 4 million state employees.

whom Mr. Suharto forced to vote for his ruling Golkar Party, will be banned from membership in political parties. Mr. Habibie has said that political neutrality is essential in the state bureau-

tracy.

The military, which now holds 75 nonelected seats in the Parliament, will have its representation reduced to 38. Once elected, the Parliament along with 200 government appointees will form a People's Consultative As-

As the nation's highest legislative body, the assembly will vote for a pres-

ident this year. The role of the military in politics is increasingly controversial. Opposition figures not in Parliament had wanted to reduce the number of appointed military seats to 15 with the aim of eventually banishing the armed forces from the

legislature. Many Indonesians resent the military, which is trying to revamp its tar-nished image as a human rights violator and is struggling to contain a wave of riots and protests that has hit Indonesia in the past year.

The nation's military chief, General Wiranto, has pledged that the armed forces would remain neutral during the election. Under Indonesian law, members of the military are prohibited from voting in elections.

effigy clad in military fatigues. ATTENDED TO THE PROPERTY OF TH



Pakistan's captain, Wasim Akram, left, and India's Mohammad Azharuddin, shaking hands after the toss on the cricket pitch Thursday. cricketers at least twice in the last de-

# Now, Cricket Diplomacy

India and Pakistan in First Series in Years

MADRAS, India -- Mounted police

and paramilitary troopers stood guard on Thursday as India and Pakistan began their first test cricket series on Indian soil in more than a decade. The match has been overshadowed by threats from Hindu extremists, but

the mood eased last week after the Shiv Sena Party withdrew its vow to disrupt the tour. And on Thursday, the rivalry was good-natured as fans lined up to get past metal detectors for the inaugural three-

day match at Chidambaram Stadium. Pakistan had 238 runs, and India then went to bat. The match will resume

Friday. More than 3,000 policemen and 600 reservists were deployed around the stadium and inside the 14 stands, said a senior police official who asked not to be identified. "We expect absolutely no

trouble," he added. The government of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where Madras is situated, declared Thursday a public

At least 25,000 tickets were sold for the first test match, stadium authorities said.

The sites of the two-test series were changed after Shiv Sena activists dug up the Delhi cricket pitch, forcing the first test to move to Madras.

Shiv Sena has blocked Pakistani

cade with threats, saying that the two countries should not be playing cricket while Indian soldiers die in clashes at the border with Pakistan,

But authorities in the two countries. believing that sporting links can improve relations, came together to put pressure on Shiv Sena last week to withdraw its threat. Pakistan won one test and the four

other tests were drawn in 1987 during an Indian tour. India and Pakistan last played each other in test matches in 1989 and 1990 in Pakistan, when all four tests were drawn.

That last tour coincided with the start of a rebellion against Indian rule in Kashmir, the Himalayan valley over which the two countries have fought two wars since 1947, the year when they won independence from Britain, the home of cricket.

In the latest clashes, India said Wednesday that five Pakistani soldiers had been killed in a border clash at the Siachen glacier in the disputed region. Conflict aside, cricket is played and

followed with passion on both sides of the border. "The pressure is totally different," the Times of India quoted the Pakistani captain, Wasim Akram, as having said about playing India. "It's more than a game here. When you win, you are up there. When you lose, you are down there.

"So when we go back, that's the way we are treated."

#### BRIEFLY

#### No Hostages in Philippines

MANILA -- President Joseph Estrada said Thursday that the situation in the southern Mindanao region was under control and that reports that Muslim rebels had taken schoolchildren and teachers hostage were false.

There are soldiers in the school," Mr. Estrada said in Manila after local radio stations reported that scores of students and teachers had been taken hostage in the school near Cotabato City on Mindanao. about 900 kilometers (560 miles) south of Manila. He said the students had taken refuge in the building after an exchange of fire between soldiers and the

There were conflicting reports that troops and rebels were still facing off in the area although the fighting appeared to have died down, military

The clash came despite a new cease-fire agreed to by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Force, the main group fighting for an independent Muslim homeland in the south. There were no reports of casualties.

India Sets Slaying Inquiry

NEW DELHI - India's cabinet decided Thurs- representative of the Chinese people."

day to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the weekend murder of an Australian Christian mis-sionary and his two sons, officials said.

Defense Minister George Fernandes said the decision was made after he and two other ministers visited the eastern state of Orissa, where the missionary, Graham Staines, and his two sons were burned to death on Saturday as they slept in their

The investigating commission will be headed by a sitting supreme court judge. Mr. Staines had spent years in remote areas help-

ing lepers and the poor.

# Taipei Affirms Skopje Tie

TAIPEI — Taiwan insisted on Thursday that new diplomatic ties with Macedonia were firm despite confusion in the Balkan country over whether its government recognized Taipei or Beijing. Taiwan's foreign minister, Jason Hu, and his

but Macedonia's president, Kiro Gligorov, later called the deal "a surprise." Mr. Gligorov met Wednesday with China's ambassador in the capital, Skopje, and said that Macedonia still recognized Beijing as "the only legitimate

Macedonian counterpart, Alexander Dimitrov,

signed a pact on relations in Taipei on Wednesday,

#### Seoul Students Want U.S. Out

SEOUL — Hundreds of militant students, shouting for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, staged violent protests in Seoul and three other cities Thursday, the police and news reports

Several students were reported injured but none of

them seriously.

Protests in Seoul turned violent when 600 students, throwing rocks, clashed with the police. They burned a U.S. flag and an effigy of President Bill Clinton. One student was slightly injured in the

### For the Record

N.

Two North Korean defectors arrived in Seoul separately on Thursday to seek political asylum, South Korea's intelligence agency and state radio said, bringing the number of such defectors this

Seeking to halt a flu outbreak that has claimed a reported 25 lives this month, Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare is warning nursing homes to begin vaccinating residents against the virus, a min-

#### EDITORIALS/OPINION

### Horror in Sierra Leone

Less than a year ago, Bill Clinton was in Africa vowing "Never again." The "international community" had tailed in Rwanda, he admitted. It had not intervened to stop a bloodletting of unimaginable savagery. But it had learned a lesson. President Clinton promised "to increase our vigilance and strengthen our stand against those who would commit such atrocities in the future." He said that "each bloodletting hastens the next - as the value of human life is degraded and violence becomes tolerated, the unimaginable becomes more conceivable." Now, in Sierra Leone, the unimaginable is again taking place, and the United States again is doing less than it could.

We do not know the scope of killing and maiming going on, because most diplomats have been evacuated and most contact has been cut off. But enough courageous relief workers and journalists remain to give some sense of the horror. We know that a rebel force is systematically chopping off the hands of men, women, boys and girls whom it captures. We know that tens of thousands have been killed, hundreds of thousands displaced. We know that in one soccer stadium alone in the capital of Freetown some 50,000 have taken refuge, short of food, vulnerable to disease.

The rationalizations for inaction are predictable. This is not a Rwanda-style genocide, after all, in which a million or more were killed in the space of cious, nonideological group of thugs
— hard to negotiate with. The United
States has provided humanitarian aid. And America cannot solve every problem in the world.

All true — yet not very convincing. Between sending the U.S. Marines and doing nothing there are many intermediate perches that the United States could occupy. So far, with respect to Sierra Leone, it remains too close to the doing-nothing end of the spectrum.

Here is one example. The only thing that stands between Sierra Leone's civilians and the savage rebel force is an alliance of West African troops led by Nigeria. Since its ill-fated intervention in Somalia, the United States has encouraged precisely this kind of solu-tion, Africans helping Africans. Yet this is not an easy mission for the Nigerians, with economic troubles of their own and a continuing democratization process that will lead to pressures to withdraw troops from foreign

entanglements. They cannot possibly do the job without sustained financial, logistical and political support from the United States. And how much has the United States budgeted to support the force

this year? A laughable \$1.3 million.
"We cannot change the past," Mr.
Clinton eloquently said in Rwanda. We can move more quickly to minimize the horror. - THE WASHINGTON POST

# Jordan's Next King

week after returning home, King Hussein of Jordan unexpectedly flew back to the Mayo Clinic for treatment of a recurrence of cancer. Just before departing he overturned long-established succession plans and named his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, as crown prince and heir to the throne. The change relegated Prince Hassan, the king's younger brother and long-standing heir apparent, to a lesser role and exposed a bitter family quarrel that could resurface after the king's death.

King Hussein, senior statesman of the Arab world and Jordan's ruler since 1952, has played an exceptional role in reducing Middle East tensions. Future stability and peace in the region will rest in no small measure on a smooth succession and on whether Crown Prince Abdullah demonstrates the same commitment to reconciliation as his father.

Through secret contacts with Israeli leaders in the early 1970s, King Hussein opened the first diplomatic communications between Israel and the Arab world. By renouncing Jordan's claims to the West Bank in the 1980s, he helped make possible the Oslo peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. In 1994, Jordan became the second Arab country to sign

a peace treaty with Israel. Since then the king has intervened at critical moments, most recently by leaving his sickbed last October to help President Bill Clinton rescue stalemated summit talks between Ben-

It was a moment of potentially great jamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat. consequence in the Middle East. A Ruling Jordan would challenge any Ruling Jordan would challenge any leader. The country was artificially created by the British Empire, lacks natural resources and is divided between a native Bedouin minority and a restless Palestinian majority. In recent years its economy has been hurt by sanctions against Iraq, formerly its

> personal strengths have held the country together. Prince Hassan is an aloof intellectual who inspired little affection among ordinary Jordanians or politically important army officers. He unwisely distanced himself from Jordanians of Palestinian origin while King Hussein preached conciliation. He infuriated the king by acting as though the throne were already his and maneuvering to insert his own son into the line of succession. This prompted a sharp royal

leading trading partner. The king's

letter of rebuke made public this week. Crown Prince Abdullah is popular in the army, where he has spent his career, and has traveled internationally on his father's behalf. He is 36, has a Palestinian wife, but is untested in a political world in which any stumble could fracture Jordan's internal stability

If Israel and the Palestinians can complete the peace they have begun, the violent conflicts that have shaped the region for so long may subside. While he has the strength, King Hussein can help lead his neighbors to that goal. Then it will be Prince Abdullah's responsibility.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

### Other Comment

Cure for 'Hyperdemocracy'

At all levels of government, the political culture of hyperdemocracy encourages citizens to behave like spoiled children, demanding that gov-ernment "meet my needs," and alternating between sullen withdrawal and boisterous whining.

And like angry children who none-

theless never doubt that their mother will always be there to ultimately set things right, Americans, at the same time that they exhibit an almost pathological cynicism about the political processes by which they govern themselves, generally express immense, not to say blind faith in their nation's future and in its standing as a democratic model for the world.

In short, they naively trust in the ultimate unimportance of their distrust - that when things get bad enough, the system somehow will automatically right itself, presumably through the ef-forts of other people, who do not share their cynicism. But the ills of hyperdemocracy are not self-limiting or selfcorrecting. Things can keep going from bad to worse. And, as concerns the quality of the public discussion that is so basic to democracy, things have been

getting worse for some time now. To tame hyperdemocracy, we must drastic-ally reduce the influence of public opinion at its shallowest, and the way to do that is to pay a lot more attention to public opinion at its most thoughtful.

- From "Hyperdemocracy," by the political scientist Hugh Heclo. in the Winter 1999 issue of the Wilson Quarterly.

#### **Independence for Timor**

The announcement by Indonesia's foreign minister that his government is preparing to offer independence to East Timor, the territory Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed in 1976, comes as a welcome sign that the long nightmare of the Timorese people may be about to end.

Indonesia's occupation of East Timor has taken a terrible toll. Human rights groups estimate that 200,000 people were killed — more than a quarter of the indigenous population. If Indonesia is sincere in its new

willingness to allow the Timorese to choose independence, their change of heart reflects a timely appreciation of diplomatic and economic realities.

- The Boston Globe.

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# Watch Out, Everyone, Russia Is Still on the Brink

PARIS — Winston Chruchill's de-scription of Russia as a "riddle wrapped in a mystery in an enigma" was a reference to the total obsessive secrecy of Stalin's regime. That has all gone. The country has been opened, including whole cities that were hidden and lots of archives. Travel to and from

remains à dilemma. It is a crucial uncertainty, perhaps the most important in determining how world affairs are going to evolve in coming years. No one informed pretends to see clearly how Russia will be governed nor the role it will play, but

it is no problem. But today's Russia

the role is sure to be significant. The countries of Eastern Europe are moving now more or less smoothly, more or less successfully, through their transition from Communist authoritarian rule to market-based liberal democracies. It has been harder than anticipated, by no means the simple explosion of liberated energy that dissidents once dreamed about. But the direction is clear and the goal well enough defined: to be a comfortable. secure member of Europe and the

Nothing is that clear in Russia. Start with Boris Yeltsin's bealth, an impending disaster for years now, but he is still By Flora Lewis

there, "He is one of those Russians born with the sturdy health of an ox and he's been working all his life to destroy it, but he still hasn't made it," a Rus-sian writer said of him.

Yevgeni Primakov, former KGB chief and foreign minister, is in charge as a kind of caretaker prime minister, but he dare not appear too eager to succeed to the presidency or he risks being dumped as his prédecessors were.

The economy is awful. Top officials keep announcing that the decline has bottomed out, that growth has begun at last, and the figures still go down. Mus-covites joke: "We learned that everything they told us about communism was a lie. Now we learn that everything they said about capitalism is true.'

An elaborate but shadowy game is going on to prepare for a presidential election, but lines of allegiance are crossed and unreliable. Districts and provinces strike out with their own programs in the absence of effective central support. The federal government seems to teeter between insolvency, for lack of revenue collection, and the temptation of hyperinflation to produce enough worthless rubles to go around. sequel, but it is not at all inevitable.

the status of a global power wherever possible, and getting on with but also opposing the United States.

The consensus of experts is that Russia could still go any way - democratic or dictatorial, with a fascist rather than Communist coloration; a cooperarive peacemaker in helping deal with turbulent parts of the world (Bosnia and Kosovo, maybe even Iraq), or a vengeful expansionist seeking to live by arms, a source of great new cultural flowering or of terrible brutality. The historical comparison is Wei-

mar, the reference to the ill-fated post-World War I German republic whose constitution was written in the picturesque city of Goethe and Schiller. The vindictive Versailles treaty, the worldwide spread of economic collapse for lack of sound political management, the fear of communism among conniving barons of capitalism are customarily given as reasons for Weimar's failure and the rise of Hitler. But it was in any case a frail structure, given to illusion and disdainful of hostile intrigues.

Russia could become Weimar. This is a frightening thought because of the

Foreign policy focuses on regaining influence in the "near abroad," among former Soviet republics, maintaining the status of the transport of the status of resources, the will exist to enable Russia to develop into a stable, healthy de-mocracy. But neither is that inevitable.

Remembering how important such contacts were in the transformation of post-World War II Germany, Mr. Bil-lington calls for the immediate dispatch of several thousand young Russians to the United States for some firsthand experience in how to administer a democracy. Others could be sent to Western Europe. He feels that such a program is urgent, that it could have early and widespread effect as people throughout the provinces are obliged to grapple with making their society work.

Russia is not a defeated country, and it is not an occupied country. The German parallel must be recognized as very limited. But the people are suffering and bewildered. The leaders who have emerged so far have been unable to organize, inspire, produce. Nobody can do it for them, but they need help from what their own bright youth can learn out in the world. No doubt that is not enough, but Russia's future will affect all of us so much that nothing useful and feasible should be left undone.

### The Euro in the West Is Fine, but Europe Is More Than 'Euroland'

By Daniel Tarschys

STRASBOURG — It has been a flying start for Europe's new currency. The battlefield of hostile armies, an ers about the need for legal, euro is invisible yet omni- old poorhouse of quarreling institutional, educational and present, nowhere and every- neighbors, into a decent and cultural perspectives in the where, already widely repre-sented on bills and price tags European home. The Council of Europe, but not yet figuring as coins or banknotes.

For the next two years, think and count in their new hands and let it slip through their fingers. Its mental presence will be ever more dense until it ultimately solidifies into physical presence.

Thought before action that is the normal process of European unification. Unique scale of the mental dry swim, hundreds of millions of people in simultaneous practice.

The euro is a magnificent achievement. But "thinking Europe" must not be confined to economic matters or to the 11 states of Euroland.

civilized place, a common transition process.

deeply engaged in 'thinking Europe" for half a century, has 'Eurolanders' will learn to always insisted on the wider and deeper dimensions of our currency before they are ac- cooperation. Emphasizing humually allowed to hold it in their man rights, democracy and the rule of law, it has focused on the ethical, moral, spiritual, cultural and social aspects of European unification.

These objectives are important in themselves, but in the Muscovy as crucial for Eurolong run they are also decisive for material well-being. The in this case, however, is the market economy functions well only if it is embedded in a decent society, in a civic and tant role to play in European civilized community, in a cul- cooperation. ture of trust and common un-That is why narrow perspect-

ives are so dangerous even from an economic point of view. Re-The European project is cent developments in Eastern joined the Council of Europe. grams of the European Union. contributed this comment to the much greater turning an old Europe serve as painful remind- Many of these countries have a To avoid exclusion, we must International Herald Tribune.

In the concert of European organizations, the Council of Europe has a particular responsibility to defend the common values and the wide horizons of the European project.

Narrow geographical perspectives must be avoided. When William Penn proposed the creation of a European Assembly in 1693, he insisted on the inclusion of the Ottoman Empire and the Principality of pean security. Security remains one of several reasons why the peoples in the eastern part of the Continent have an impor-

In the 1990s, the countries freed from Communist oppresand prosperous democracies. Sixteen of them have now

efforts and multidimensional Recently, 10 "wise per-

need for a strong Council of Curtain, we have now a unique chance to pursue this objective. But will we seize it?

quite real and may be aggra-vated if the process of EU enlargement fails to take the wider European context into account. This calls for particular attention to the bodies involved in a more broadly inclusive cooperation, not only the Council of Europe but also the Organization for Security sion have set out to build stable and Cooperation in Europe, the Economic Commission for

Europe and some external pro-

long way to go to make up for intensify wider European cothe waste and mismanagement operation for the consolidation of their past. This requires joint of democracy and the protection of human rights, including the combat against racism and intolerance and the protection

sons" under the leadership of former Portuguese President Mario Soares reaffirmed the need for a strong Council of needed in many fields, not least Europe. Their report was aprly in those related to the fight against organized crime, drug called "Building a Greater against organized crime, drug Europe Without Dividing trafficking and corruption.

In 1997, the Strasbourg sum-

mit of the Council of Europe adopted an ambitious agenda in this spirit. Although some first The risks of new barriers are steps have been taken to carry it out, the real will to seize the new opportunities for wider European cooperation remains insufficient.

This won't do. The launching of the common currency is worth all the celebration it has attracted, but it must not limit our horizons. Europe is more than Euroland.

The writer, secretary-general of the Council of Europe.

# Asian Countries Need a New Mind-Set to End the Crisis

 $S^{\text{INGAPORE}} - \text{How did} \\ \text{we get into the economic}$ crisis in Asia that has destroyed the jobs and hopes of millions? The simple, perhaps facile explanation is that hubris brought

the region down. Arrogant pride meant that we started to believe our own propaganda. Where the Asian Miracle was once just a journalist's catchy phrase, it soon became an excuse for all kinds of excesses, including the worst sin, KKN.

The Indonesian initials for corruption, cronyism and nepotism, KKN represents the darker side of the so-called Asian values that created the boom years. It was the hollow rot at the core of a false economic boom.

We now know that KKN was a cancer eating at the heart of several Asian societies; but while everyone was benefiting from it, no one wanted to rock the boat. Corruption was given a respectable euphemism

By Ho Kwon Ping guan xi, the Chinese word for life, not necessarily by becom-

'connections' -- and everyone went back to playing the game. The recession can be an opportunity for us to clean house and start afresh. But there are several mind-set

changes that all new-generation businessmen must make. First, they must participate in political life. The past year has proved that the saying about politics being too important to leave to politicians is all too true. Inept, self-interested and corrupt politicians destroyed the lives of millions of people. For young business leaders in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and elsewhere, enlightened self-interest must mean involvement in political change.

Where previously business leaders' only involvement in politics was lobbying for their own projects, they should now participate actively in political

ing politicians but by demanding good governance from leaders. Those businessmen who did not benefit from cronyism, and they are the overwhelming majority, should demand an end to KKN.

Asia's rising generation should push for new mind-sets about the relationship between business and governance, new standards of conduct, and new visions of social, economic and political development. Such visions cannot be imposed from outside, like the failed austerity measures from the International Monetary Fund. They can only succeed if Asian businessmen, trade unionists, students and teachers all demand it.

Second, good governance must be defined, with standards set, and made into the new Asian political philosophy. The up-and-coming Asian generation cannot just demand vaguely

idealistic economic reforms, shrouded in slogans like "reformasi," which student and opposition activists chant in the streets of Indonesia and Malaysia. Neither can it just copy the formal trappings of Westernstyle democracy, whether they are appropriate or not in a particular setting. We must go beyond the form and into the

substance of good governance. Singapore, in its preoccu-pation, some would say its near obsession, with self-analysis, self-improvement and social engineering, may be an example for Asia — not an example to follow, but one from which to extract lessons. While its system of governance is not without detractors, virtually everyone, including its foreign critics, agrees that Singapore's way of governance has enabled it to emerge relatively un-scathed from this crisis.

The Singapore way is not a universal model for others to follow, because it is the result of pragmatic adaptation and continual improvements to its own historical context. But the lesson for others is in the objective: a relatively transparent, accountable government where the social contract between the leadership and people is genu-inely strong, and social cohe-sion has increased rather than been weakened by the crisis.

ers should decide that good governance, which includes concepts like accountability transparency and incorruptibe ility, must be turned into meas urable standards.

For Asia's rising generation, the passing of the baton of leadership is a curse as much as a challenge. The curse is that we may not learn from history and will be doomed to repeat the same mistakes that today we claim we will never make. again. The challenge is to build new structures of governance. civil society and, indeed, Asian values, which will be lasting in

their basic principles. We must carefully pick our own independent path through the debris, dusting off and restoring those truths that guided our progress in the past, while discarding those remnants of a hypocritical tradition which

contributed to our downfall. Asia must resurrect itself. But on its own terms and from its own foundations, not from the sometimes facile observations and criticisms of foreign critics or self-flagellating Asian intellectuals. We must be unrelentingly self-critical - yet not lose our self-confidence.

The writer heads several Singapore-based companies. This comment was adapted by the International Herald

#### Asia's intellectuals, students. Tribune from a recent speech to ad business and cultural leadthe ASEAN Tourism Forum. particular program started with the BBC, but Fronthad been killed in Somalia. and business and cultural lead-

WASHINGTON — In 1994 in Rwanda, nearly a million Tutsi were massacred by Hutu in about 100 days. The horror of this holocaust, and the ways in which it could have been prevented by the United Nations and the administration, have been realized only in fragments.

Last year came a powerfully detailed book by Philip Gourevitch, "We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Farnilies." He disclosed the role of Madeleine Albright, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations during that tornado of killings: "Ducking and pres-suring others to duck, as the death toll leapt from thousands to tens of thousands, was the absolute low point in her career as a stateswoman."

Also not substantively reported at the time was the complicity of UN leaders in these killings. UN officials knew months before the April 1994 genocide of plans for those ethnic massacres, but no meaningful preventive action

A vivid and revealing re-

port on how this genocide

could have been prevented, or

at least cut short, was seen in

America in the PBS series Bill Clinton admitted that

By Nat Hentoff

We Could Have Saved Rwandans

"Frontline" on Tuesday. This line" added new material fo-cusing on the American refusal to intervene. On camera, Mr. Gourevitch

said the Clinton administra-

tion's approach "throughout

the entire period" was not a failure to intervene but the \*success of a policy not to intervene." James Woods, deputy assistant secretary at the De-fense Department from 1986 to 1994, added that he was asked, in 1993, to list possible serious crises that the admin-. istration might face. He

placed Rwanda on that list, but

higher authorities told him to

take it off because American interests were not involved. At the end of April 1994, a State Department secret intelligence report called the killings genocide. But Tony Marley, then a consultant at the State Department, said on "Frontline" that a Clinton administration official cautioned that in the coming congressional elections the Democrats could lose votes if stand defenseless.

'genocide was taking place in Rwanda and yet be seen to do nothing about it." A year be-fore, 18 American soldiers Mr. Marley at one point re-commended that American military radio equipment could at least be used to jam Rwandan radio transmissions

move would violate the First Amendment. At the United Nations, Kofi Annan, then in charge of peacekeeping missions, was told before the killings started that UN forces would be able to seize weapons, but he refused.

urging that all Tutsi be killed,

but a lawyer from the Pen-

tagon insisted that such a

The country was overflowing with corpses, but UN Ambassador Albright postponed a Security Council vote on the genocide.

In March 1998, in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, President Clinton apologized for not having "fully appre-ciated ... this unimaginable terror." But essentially, Mr. Gourevitch concludes, the lesson of Rwanda is that "endangered people who depend on the international community for physical protection

# IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Liberal Duchy BERLIN — The Duchy of Brunswick publishes a commu-

niqué from the Government repudiating insinuations on the subject of the annexation, pure and simple, of the duchy by Prussia. Something serious must be going on behind the scenes to make the government of Brunswick thus publicly defend the independence of the

#### 1924: Trust Bust

duchy.

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission has received complaints of a monopoly in radio apparatus making and broadcasting, in restraint of trade, against the Radio Corporation of America, the General Electric Company, the American Telephone and Telephone Company of the Company Electric Company, the Interna- cil of Europe.

tional Radio, the United Fruit and Wireless Specialties concerns. The complaint alleges that the patents of these organizations have been pooled to restrict trading and charges that they have acquired all transoceanic communications and have refused all other devices for such services.

#### 1949: New Council

LONDON — Foreign Ministers of the five Western European Union powers, who form the consultative council of the five-power Brussels treaty, announced agreement on proposals for establishing a ministerial Council of Europe and a consultative body, which would serve as a Parliament without legislative powers. Other European countries, which were not graph Company, the Westing-house Company, the Western the establishment of the Counspecified, will be invited to parn Sell La

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#### **OPINION/LETTERS**

# Europe Is No Slacker In the Art of Scandal

By William Safire

ONDON - Americans are afflicted with the notion that we should be emharrassed by the Clinton imeachment follies.

We think that sophisticated Europe is going tut-tut at our seeming constitutional instability and tsk-tsk at our obsession with what Dale Bumpers brushed off as a mere "sex scandal."

Cut the blushing. Eurocorruption is busting out all over. Never have so many taken so much so blatantly.

Here in Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair's emin-ence grise, a smooth manipulator of public opinion named Peter Mandelson, was found to have secretly taken a half-million-dollar loan, before the election, from a member of Parliament who then became a cabinet minister and came under investigation by Mr. Mandelson's

department.
This illicit arrangement. giving new meaning to what is known here as "the third way, caused much reu-faced New Labour harrumphing and spun the spin-

meister out of his job. In Brussels, a score of the faceless commissioners of the European Union were nearly sacked when an antifraud squad of the European Parliament found cronyism and evidence of rigged bids

manitarian funds. Stickyfingered bureaucrats who believed that humanitarianism began at home may soon face a new force: an independent counsel

And how about that money-grubbing International Olympic Committee? A new gold medal for kickbacks has been struck at IOC headquarters in Lausanne. Competition in the 500-meter shakedown was discovered in Salt Lake City and spread to Sydney, and to Nagano, Japan, where records of the corrupt bidding were consigned to the flames.

Ringleader of the five Olympic rings is Juan Anto-

nio Samaranch, who built the Olympics into a billion-dollar business. As investigators in sucker cities close in on the center of extortion, this grumpy geezer maintains he was merely blind to the high living of his agents.

Urgently needed is a highintegrity replacement unbe-holden to the old regime, such as Sir Roger Bannister, the eminent neurologist, who in his youth was first to break the four-minute mile.

Even when they're not venal, Europe's honchos of hubris are making history. The judge who cast the swing vote to turn over General Augusto Pinochet to Spanish prosecutors turns out to have and embezzlement rampant had a whopping conflict of in the management of hu- interest: Lord Hoffmann



failed to reveal his longtime association with Armesty International, an active party in

For the first time in the long history of the Law Lords, a decision was scrapped and a new panel appointed. This has flipped

more than a few wigs. However, sexually enlightened France's entry in the Kickback Olympics puzzles Americans.

The head of France's independent Constitutional Council is roughly equivalent to the chief justice of the United States. Roland Dumas, 76, a former foreign minister and a man of great book by a former friend, the just been concluded and lobbyist Christine Deviers- France is holding its breath:

entitled Joncour. Whore of the Republic." Mrs. Deviers-Joncour told investigators she was paid

\$11 million by the French oil giant Elf Aquitaine to use her connection with Mr. Dumas, then foreign minister, to drop his opposition to a sale of six warships to Taiwan.
The sale, worth \$2.7 bil-

lion, went through. Mr. Du-mas says he has a clear conscience and "will continue in all serenity" to preside over French justice.

He is less serene about the pictures in bathing suits with Mrs. Deviers-Joncour on a beach near the oil fields, published by the gossipy Paris dignity, is the subject of a Match. The investigation has

Will its top judge be indicted? Will the "putain" be discredited or believed? A trustworthy European source tells me: "All Paris is agog."

We Americans have long ago given up agogging when by powerful politicians.

We smile tolerantly; we shrug expressively; we lift a sophisticated eyebrow to show we are not prigs or moralizers or hypocrites. This is the way of the world, is it not

Clintonized Americans regard with world-weary dis-dain those French prudes snooping on each other in a "nouvelle vague" of sexual McCarthyism. When will Europe grow up?

The New York Times.

# 'No Man Is an Island, Entire of Itself,' Except When It Comes to the Senate

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — The Senate trial of President Bill Clinton makes me think of the great Japanese film "The Island." It concerned a farm family that lived on an island and whose daily routine was mostly devoted to the fetching of water from the mainland. Their life was tedious, arduous, sometimes train and always expections.

sometimes tragic, and always engrossing.

At the end of the film, though, the camera zoomed up and off the island, revealing it to be not a universe, but a speck in the water a mere nothing of no account to anyone.

It is the same with the Senate trial. When it is in progress, it is occasionally possible to

#### MEANWHILE

become engrossed, to believe that all those people — the chief justice in his doorman's stripes, the grandiloquently titled Mister

Managers — must be doing something.

But a moment away from the proceedings .— a recess, an interruption — reveals this to be like the island in the movie, unerly redious and removed. Not from a mainland, but from reality itself. The Senate is in a zone of its own making.

From time to time, for instance, someone named Mister Manager Hyde tells the Senate that the prosecutors from the House of Representatives really have a good case against the president.

This, of course, is not news. We all know that Mr. Clinton had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, that he lied about it -- to his family, to his friends, to the people and under oath to Paula Jones's lawyers and Kenneth Starr's grand jury. Henry Hyde and his colleagues seem to be the only ones in America who think that they have to prove any of this.

Mr. Clinton is guilty of all this, but not of an impeachable offense.

No matter. The House managers irrationally plod on. They are like a group of madmen

Mr. Clinton to tell Mr. Blumenthal the truth --Mr. Blumenthal above all others? Not Hillary Rodham Clinton. Not the American people Not the lawyers at the deposition or the grand jurors at the courthouse. None of these. Just Sidney Blumenthal, whose special relation-ship is not with Mr. Clinton but with the first

lady. What is the purpose of this?

The managers also asked for Vernon Jordan, the president's close friend and an accomplished Washington lawyer who tried to find Ms. Lewinsky a job. Mr. Jordan has already testified five times before the grand jury, each time maintaining he did not know Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky were once sexually involved. Ms. Lewinsky hailed from Beverly Hills. She had a college degree and credit cards. He helped her anyway — a touching concern for the privileged. In reality, he has always been accused of the implied crime of

being too smart to be that dumb.

And the third on the list is Ms. Lewinsky herself. Why? What more can she add? We know her story. The managers seem to think we do not, that it will be news to us (and the Senate) that Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky were getting it on in the Oval Office and that, afterwards, he conspired with her to cover it all up. Yes, yes, Mister Managers, we know who this president is. But being a low life is not a high crime.

Missing from the list was Betty Currie.
Why? She figured in the most preposterous aspects of the president's tale. We are supposed to believe Mrs. Currie took it on her own to retrieve Mr. Clinton's gifts to Ms. Lewinsky. We are supposed to believe that she stashed these gifts and that, I guess, her husband, Bob, did not ask what a Black Dog T-shirt and a volume of "Leaves of Grass" were doing under the bed. That's no place to read Walt Whitman.

We are also supposed to believe that she dal to be over. Non-American resident really was called in one Sunday to refresh the president's memory - a coals to Newcastle aliens share this wish. These days I find task comparable only to refreshing his libido. myself clutching my shortwave radio The president had her confirm one lie after and excitedly moving the dial to catch some foreign news, any foreign news. another: I was never alone with her, right? The moon is blue, right? It was his most Just as during the darkest communist despicable performance — the abuse of a times in my native Poland when we loyal subordinate. relied on Radio Free Europe to cir-

The country has tuned out. The trial is called historic, but it is merely blessedly rare. proceeds in its own sphere, an epic irrelevance that seems only to underscore the remove of the government from the governed. John Donne wrote that no man is an island. but the Senate surely is, lost, drifting and hidden in a fog of its own making.

Washington Past Service

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regarding "Clinton Secs Threat of Germ Terrorism" (Jan. 23);

As frightening as it is to admit, there is no real defense against unconventional arms. Easy to make and easy to hide, they are simply part of our world. The proper response to this reality, however, is not to turn America into a technological surveillance state. Nor is it productive to rattle the saber of "disproportionate response" in the faces of governments that may have no connection to individual terrorists.

Constructive ways to mitigate the

Attacking Germ Terrorism inating America's own vast stockpile as well as restraining from foreignpolicy ventures that only inflame hatred of the United States. While these solutions may not be palatable to many in Washington, they are the only real alternatives to a policy that amounts to attacking a homet's nest with a baseball bat.

ALEXANDER ZAITCHIK

#### **Future of Social Security**

Social Security funds should not be threat of these weapons include elim- invested in the stock market. The in-

herent structure of the stock market is that of a "zero-sum game," meaning that for every winner, there is a loser. For every buyer, there is a seller. When more people want to buy than sell. stock prices go up. This is the current situation as the

"baby boomers" reach the peak of their earning power and have money to invest. But, guess what will happen when the Baby Boomers retire? They will be taking more money out of the market. There will then be more sellers than buyers, and stock prices will drop.

BRUCE JOFFE. Piedmont, California,

#### Elia Kazan's Oscar

Regarding "Elia Kazun Deserves Oscar for Talent and Integrity" (Opinion, Jan. 27) by Richard Cohen:

I agree that Elia Kazan's films justify an Oscar, but in real life the cowardly Mr. Kazan denounced his idealistic friends through self-righteous opportunism. I prefer the movies.

DAVID WASSERMAN. Rognes, France.

#### Impeachment Blackout

You report that Americans all agree they want the Monica Lewinsky scan- Studies Center.

news, so, too, it is now possible to tune in to foreign broadcasts for impeachment-free news. ANNA HUSARSKA.

cumvent a total blackout of outside

New York. The writer is a fellow at the Media

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# Heights of Guatemala: Ruins and Volcanoes

By Frank Bruni New York Times Service

UATEMALA CITY. Guatemala — i had brushed away a thin black dust that kept settling on the pages of the novel I was reading at least three times before I took conscious note of it and began looking around for its source. I was baffled. There were few trees near the pool deck where I was sitting; there was no construction under way. Just row upon row of splendidly lush hills, rising to the snub-nosed peaks of some of Guatemala's trademark volcanoes.

Volcanoes? Could it be? I wiped off another layer of ashv grime and, in my mangled Spanish, asked one of the hotel

"Pacaya," he said with a naughty smile. "Boom." Pacaya was one of the volcanoes I could not see, the summit nearest to Guatemala City, some 30 miles away, and it had indeed gone boom.

The eruption was modest -- no lava, no loss of lives -- but potent enough to scatter debris all the way to my hotel in the mountain town of Antigua. It temporarily closed the airport in Guatemala City and forced the cancellation of my return flight to New York, stranding me in Guatemala for 24 hours longer than I had planned to stay. And it underscored my entire experience of what is arguably Central America's most exotic country, a place that continually provided surprises — by turns exhibarating and debilitating, awe-in-

spiring and crazy-making.
In a relatively inexpensive, unhurried eight days — nine with the unexpected eruption - we managed to see the Maya temples in Tikal National Park near the Mexican border, the mountain-ringed idyll of Lake Atitlan, the bust-ling native market in the highland village of Chichicastenango and the colonial town of Antigua — formally Antigua Guatemala — with its narrow cobblestone streets and boutiques brimming with jade, religious ornaments and handmade textiles.

A SUPPLY OF PAYIENCE But we also learned that Guatemala is not easy, that tourists who head there need to pack an ample supply of patience before they depart. Rickety, sluggish trucks clog the two-lane, serpentine, generously named highways that connect various cities and villages; what should be a one-hour drive can easily expand into three, and road signs in some areas are obscure or nonexistent. The changeable weather makes it difficult to choose the right time or day to ascend a volcano or rent a boat.

Then there is the crime, or at least the fear of it. Although Guatemala is no longer plagued by the political instability of 5 or 10 years ago, it remains an impoverished country in which wealthy foreign tourists are conspicuous and, according to some travel guides and the U.S. State Department, ready prey. Tourists have been robbed, assaulted and, in the widely publicized case of five American college students traveling in a group from Maryland last year, raped.

My experience and those of other tourists with whom I the bumpy gravel and dirt road from a squalid village to the toke suggested that this threat was overblown, but it trail head. spoke suggested that this threat was overblown, but it nonetheless restricts the movements of any cautious trav-

On our first full day, we took, for about \$200 each, a daylong trip to Tikal National Park that included round-trip airfare for the 45-minute flight from Guaternala City to the small northern city of Flores, transportation between the Flores airport and the park and a guide for exploration of the Maya ruins, scattered throughout a dense jungle inhabited by rare birds and spider monkeys. We saw our first monkey no more than a few yards down the footpath into the park.

The astonishingly intact ruins, mostly dating from around A.D. 700, are spread out over several square miles that also include some structures still being excavated, and they are a revelation, accessible to tourists in a way they would not be in a more developed country. The difference, I'm convinced, is liability. If these steeply graded stone temples, with jagged facades that resemble crude staircases, were situated in, say, the Arizona desert, they would undoubtedly be cordoned off. In Tikal, a visitor can climb to the top of each pyramidal structure, a hair-raising experience surpassed only by the trip back down. Going in that direction, we were forced to slither backward, bellies to stone, lest vertigo and utter panic

We felt like fools, until our guide assured us that more intrepid tourists had met ghastly fates. He said that one American teenager took a furious tumble and broke a dozen bones. A German tourist intent on videotaping his descent lost control of more than his camera and ended up in a

We heaved sighs of relief and reassured ourselves that no other activity on our trip would prove so nerve-wracking.
We had yet to reach Lake Atitlan, where a volcano beckoned
us toward its cloud-shrouded apex.
It is astonishing that the mention of Atitlan does not prompt

the instant recognition among travelers that the names Tahoe or Como do, because Atitlan's beauty easily trumps that of more famous lakes. Atitlan lies about 5,100 feet (1,550 meters) above sea level, and the three volcanoes along its shores rise to peaks averaging about 10,000 feet. Moreover, the villages along the 50-square-mile lake are still inhabited by modernday Mayas wearing traditional dress, kaleidoscopic garments shimmering with purple, orange and crimson threads

But it took us nearly three hours by car to reach Atitlan from Guatemala City on the Pan-American Highway, and the natural wonder we encountered was less than lovingly maintained. Maya women use it as a laundry basin, and littercoats some of its shores.

Such was the legacy of our volcano adventure. Heeding travel books and advisories that warned of occasional robberies along hiking trails, we spent what was considered top dollar - about 75 apiece - to hire a guide to take us across the lake and up the slopes of the volcano of San Pedro. This bought us passage in a crowded, dirty motorboat and then 15 minutes in the refuse-strewn bed of a pickup truck navigating

The climb itself was pure torture — the incline of the weedtangled, rock-studded path was sometimes close to vertical and after the first of the three and a half hours to the summit at 9,908 feet, any views were obscured by the dense tree cover. When we reached the top, our reward was sweat-soaked clothing, burning thighs, altitude-aggravated shortness of breath and an impenetrable fog that diminished visibility to about 75 feet. A Dutch couple whose curses had occasionally about 75 feet. been audible from about 100 feet ahead of us on the trail lay inert on a mossy boulder, but they seemed to be breathing. At least, we thought, the hard part was over.

Then a veritable monsoon hit, turning the air frigid and the narrow trail into a treacherous mudslide. As we babystepped our way down in sneakers ill-suited for such conditions, my feet flew out from under me at least a dozen times; my sister tumbled repeatedly into thorny bramble. The blood from her scratches mingled with tears from her terror, prompting an epiphany, Never, she vowed, would she go on vacation with me again.

HE next morning, we awoke with sore throats, high temperatures and muscles so shredded we could barely get out of bed. Fortunately, we had a full day to recuperate before our next destination. Even more fortunately, the recuperate before our next destination. Even more fortunately, the relegation of the brief ston in Chichicaster. tunately, that destination, after a brief stop in Chichicastenango, was the Casa Santo Domingo, a five-star hotel of nonpareil beauty in the relaxing and refined village of Antigua, Guaternala's colonial capital in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Casa Santo Domingo's labyrinth-like series of dark stone hallways and column-fringed courtyards ramble through the ruins of a 17th-century Dominican monastery, and the hotel's attentive caretakers evoke the sacred aura of the place with a multitude of religious statues and flickering candles that, at night, are pretty much the sole source of light (except, of course, in guest rooms). Fresh flower petals float atop the tiny concrete pools that dot the public areas.

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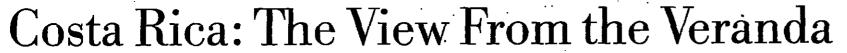
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All of this, plus a room with a fireplace and terrace, cost

about \$100 a night.

Antigua itself is miracle of painstaking preservation, its buildings and streets little changed over the last 200 years. To wander through the center of the town, which has about 35,000 residents, is to encounter the remnants of convents, monasteries and elaborately sculptured churches built between the mid-1500s and the mid-1700s. The views of the surrounding volcanoes change as clouds gather, disperse and scuttle from one horizon to the next.

Antigua also boasts craft stores tucked into quiet courtyards with omate gardens, quaint bars and restaurants that offer sophisticated cuisine not easily found elsewhere in the country. We enjoyed a fine dinner at Meson Panza Verde, which serves its beef and pork dishes in rich sauces laced with Cognac and cream. With a bottle of wine from the extensive list, two people can stuff themselves for around \$70.



By Frances Frank Marcus

Ruins at Tikal National Park, most duting from around

A.D. 700, are spread out over several square miles.

AN JOSE, Costa Rica — A red dugout canoe floated on the calm aqua sea, orchids were blooming in the garden, large grapefruit and limes hung languorously in the orchard. And on a steep slope above, we glimpsed the edge of a deep green, mysterious Costa Rican rain forest. Nothing wrong with the view. But something was definitely amiss. A rather big something.

Surveying the vista from our room at the top of the stairs in a jungle lodge reachable only by boat, we could see the canoe, citrus trees and forest clearly for a good reason. On three ides, between the beaded board wa there was nothing but tropical sea air. Our room was almost without walls. My husband and I had known this in advance but even so, seeing it up close was disquieting. In any case, the space was now ours, and paid for in advance.

We set down three small pieces of luggage. Then there was a flutter of wings. A large toucan flapped straight toward us, stopping a few feet away in the branches of a tall water

There was a reason for staying in a room that was halfporch at the top of the lodge operated by Rainbow Adventures-Costa Rica, in the southwestern part of the country near Panama. It is set in a 1,200-acre (480-hectare) rain forest, blessed with spectacular scenery and gorgeous birds. Here, we wanted to test an idea embraced by Alec Waugh, the English writer, who liked to size up unfamiliar territory from a veranda. Like him, we wanted to find out if we could see a respectable amount of jungle life from the edges.

"Either you are the explorer, who leaves no corner unexamined, who hurries from place to place collecting and codifying facts; or else you are the observer," Waugh wrote in "Hot Countries," his book about travels in the tropics. 'Myself, I have always chosen to let life come to me.'

Still, there were questions. The main one: How much of our third-floor room would we be sharing and with how many varieties of wildlife? Costa Rica is said to have 850 species of bird and more than 35,000 species of insect, including hordes of mosquitoes. We had learned that Rain-bow's owner, Michael Medill, had not installed ceiling fans

because they could annihilate hummingbirds. Our trip to Rainbow Adventures began with a flight from

San Jose, Costa Rica's mountainous capital, in a twin-engine plane 50 minutes southeast over the mountains to Puerto imenez, a village on the Golfo Dulce near the Pacific Ocean. We were headed for the Osa Peninsula and Lapa Rios, an upscale jungle lodge, where the rooms were protected by mesh screens. Two mornings later we checked out and climbed into a four-wheel drive truck that would take us to Puerto Jimenez for the boat trip across the Golfo Dulce to our room without walls.

At Rainbow, built in a grassy clearing between the volcanic sand beach and the steep forested ridge, Brian Strehlow, a co-manager, wearing camp counselor shorts and T-shirt, was waiting as we stepped from the skiff onto rocks

In our third-floor room at the top of the stairs, we walked into a hodgepodge of collectibles, panels of stained glass. small tables of Art Nouveau objects, several vases filled with bouquets of fresh flowers, faded prints on the wall and polished hardwood floors. Fine mesh mosquito netting shadowed the double bed.

Downstairs on the breezy veranda, a home-style lunch was delicious: fresh tamarind juice, a soft tamale with chicken and fresh vegetables and a salad of marinated cauliflower.

Energized by the tamarind juice, we decided to go for a walk with Brian, included in the daily rate for room and meals. On an easy trek wading up one of Rainbow's clear rocky streams we saw a green kingfisher in a wild avocado tree, beautiful fungi that like tiny white caps growing on tree limbs, and a plant species with an elephantine trunk.

But we saw nothing on our walk as beguiling as the frangipani tree in Rainbow's side garden, festooned with hanging clumps of pastel orchids growing in coconut husks—though the ylang-ylang tree with a languid yellow flower came close. Hummingburds sipped from the bird-of-paradise-like blossoms of the heliconia plant. The tree sheltering a tamily of bats was less agreeding.

a family of bats was less appealing.

After dinner that evening, we drifted outside to look for tree frogs and other creatures near the 48-foot nonchlorinated, spring-fed swimming pool, part of Rainbow's even-ing ritual. The frogs flatten themselves against green leaves until they are almost two-dimensional. There were plenty of

frogs but no sign of the boa constrictor that had visited the pool area a few days before. Night falls early in Costa Rican jungles, and so do bird-

watchers. By about 10 P.M. you crawl under the mosquito netting to wait for dawn, when you're awakened by silvery bird calls. Later the rain came down in torrents, but the room stayed dry, protected by the wide roof overhang. Beyond the buckets of rain that fell in the inky black, I was aware only of

perfume from the ylang-ylang tree.

The next day after breakfast, we left the veranda for a trip to the main attraction in Rainbow's world. Casa de Orquidias, a botanical garden that is a 15- or 20-minute boat ride south of the lodge. The garden was created by two Americans, Ron and Trudy MacAllister. The beguiling 70-acre garden surrounding the small house they built themselves 19 years ago out of native woods lies between the steep jungle hillside and the beach.

In the garden's wild tangle of tropical splendors - plants growing on top of plants and sprouting from every visible cranny - one orchid species grows up to 12 feet tall and another has a bloom no bigger than four pinheads. Inviting pathways curve through thickets of mango, papaya, guanabana, cashews, and star fruit trees, spiky bromeliads, giant strangler figs, heliconias, a variety of gingers and countless other species. There were cactuses, which grow much faster in Costa Rica than in the desert, and a palm tree that, Trudy said, "you can see grow — five feet in two weeks. I sit on my porch and watch it grow."

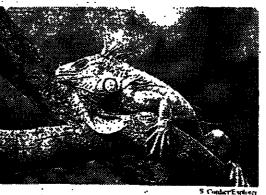
#### THE FINAL TALLY

Back at Rainbow, early the next morning, just before leaving, I sat in front of the lodge on a seaside bench made of a split log for a last look, spotting brown pelicans circling above dolphins. The pelicans followed our boat south to Golfito and its small landing strip. Waiting for the plane back to San Jose, we sat on a bench under trees hung with bromeliads. My wildlife tally after two days beside the rain forest was paltry by Costa Rican standards: a dozen bird species I could name, dozens of others I couldn't name, an agile racoonlike coatimundi, and no mosquito bites. But what we did see was choice. And we had learned what we had hoped to learn, that you can see quite a bit without straying far from a veranda.

Frances Frank Marcus is a frequent contributor to The



The crater of the Irezu volcano in Costa Rica.



A green iguana on its jungle perch.

# From Night Safari to Museums, a Youthful Tour of Singapore



"Freedom Child," 1978, by the Singapore sculptor Ng Eng Teng.

By Katherine Knorr

INGAPORE — There are a lot of good ways to spend time with kids in Singapore. What makes this city-state some-times boring and sometimes disturbing to adults — its firm government and its enforced orderliness — makes it an ideal place to travel with children: It's clean and safe, relatively unpolluted, full of tropical gardens, multicul-

tural food and shopping malls for all ages.

The kitschy Night Safari, on the north side of the island, is a definite kid hit, with its spookily lighted animals "in their habitat" (check out the anteater) and the little train that takes you through to spy on them.

Singapore is also working at expanding its museums, all part of attracting that tourist dollar, and although none is truly worth a detour, they make a nice break from the sultry Somerset Maugham climate,

STATE-OF-THE-ART VIDEO The major museums are not specifically aimed at kids, but they have gone to great lengths to be accessible and fun, with state-of-the-art video connections to back up the exhibits with background information that comes close to giving you the recipe for replicating that nice piece of "kitchen" Qing

Indeed visitors to the museums are bound to see characteristically neat and quiet school groups with a few hours off from excelling in the classroom, to peer into their island's past.

It has to be said that Singapore, despite its best intentions, isn't particularly rich in Asian, or

even specifically Chinese art - many of the collections are borrowed from private collectors, and are therefore quirky and incomplete from any historical standpoint. But the very quirkiness of the museums can be a draw for a change of pace.

This visitor's favorite was the Asian Civilisations Museum, the first part of what will be a larger museum devoted to the cultural history of

#### KIDS

Asia. The first museum, in the refurbished old Tao Nan School, also offers an opportunity rare in Singapore — to wander through colonialstyle architecture, all mission white walls and dark banisters.

The museum, which concentrates on Chinese civilization (the next phase, to open in a few years in the Empress Place Building, will look more widely at Asian culture), makes up for the modesty of its collections with interesting and

intelligent display.

In a fairly short tour, an hour or so, you get a sense of Chinese civilization high and low through architecture, furniture, porcelain and enamelware, burial artifacts, writing mensils, iewelry and so on -all of it practical rather than abstract and so a draw for kids' eyes.

Chinese, who emigrated from China in the 19th century to form Chinese communities in the Straits settlements.

Among the embroidered fabrics and the elaborate porcelain created for the huge weddings of merchants' children are highly ornate beaded mules and purses, high in tangy color and in the manietabable image of these properties. unmistakable image of that great old Asian

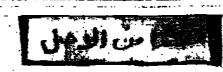
heroine Betty Boop.

At the National University of Singapore, near the Lee Kong Chian museum (probably too academic for kids), look into the Ng Eng Teng Gallery, devoted to the works of the Singaporean sculptor. Although most of his work is stark and haunting, there is also much playfulness in his pottery, which makes up about one-third of the gallery space, and in his great rocking works in ciment fondu, which kids will love.

On a much larger scale the Singapore Art Museum, housed in the handsome old St. Joseph's mission school, is another major government project.

Devoted to contemporary art from Asia, it suffers from the same malady as many contemporary art museums around the world: Much of the work, which wishes to be both playful and youthful and profound, tends to be cartoonish or otherwise garish — but to each his own.

The collection does offer a good sampling of the work of such Singaporean pioneers as the late Georgette Chen, and of young artists from Thailand to Vietnam to Burma, high in color and The tour starts with a small but highly amusing display, on the Peranakan, or Straits please the kids and there is a nice coffee shop.



### FREQUENT TRAVELER

# Off and Running With the Euro Volcanoe.

By Roger Collis

RAVELERS are learning to love the euro — the new single Enropean currency that came into being on Jan. 1. You will no longer have to figure out how many lire p the dollar or pesetas to the French anc or Belgian francs to the guilder.

With euro coins and notes not due to enter circulation for three years, the euro may seem unreal: an invisible currency that can only be used in noncash transactions, such as charge-card payments, traveler's checks and direct debits.

On Jan. 1, 2002, euro notes and coins will be introduced and all prices will be posted in euros. National currencies will be gradually withdrawn and will cease to be legal tender by June 30, 2002, at the latest. The four European Union members that are not in the European monetary union - Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece — may join the second wave around 2002.

Consolidating your expenses in euros means that you just have one foreign-exchange cost — between the euro and your own currency, such as dollars, yen or the British pound. And with a eurodollar exchange rate of about 1.16, it's easy to see what you're spending (think of the euro as slightly heavier than the dollar) and compare euro prices - and therefore the value of goods and services in various countries

#### CROSS-BORDER SERVICES

Price transparency in the 11 countries of the euro zone — Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain — will make it much easier to shop for the best cross-border air fares, hotel rates and other travel services in different countries once all prices are posted in euros. This ability to compare prices should lead to more competition and bring prices more in line across borders.

It's worth stating the obvious that

during the three-year transition, national currencies still exist alongside the euro. The 11 euro-zone currencies are locked in a fixed exchange rate with the euro. Thus, there are 6.55957 French francs, 40.3399 Belgian-Luxembourg francs and 1.95583 Deutsche marks to the euro. So there are no more flucmarions between the euro currencies and, therefore, no exchange costs because they are all expressions of the

same money — the euro.
However, don't expect merchants or banks to round all those decimal points up or down in your favor. And some banks in euro-zone countries are charging "handling fees" - officially frowned upon in Brussels --- to replace the "spread" between the buy and sell rates for currencies that you see posted in banks and exchange bureaus.

Single-currency rules apply also to the four countries outside the euro zone Britain, Sweden, Greece and Denmark, so that if you want to change, say, French francs to Deutsche marks in London, you should be able to save money through the fixed-rate system. But many banks still charge for two foreign-exchange spreads by taking you through the pound. Banks normally make 1 to 3 percent on each transaction. So you could end up paying 6 percent.

Travelers are seeing prices posted in euros alongside national currencies. But you are not obliged to pay in euros — nor are merchants obliged to accept euros during the three-year transition. But it makes sense to start thinking euros, and make as many transactions as possible in euros with euro-denominated traveler's checks or on your charge card.

Most major airlines accept the new currency. Travelers, for example, on Air France or British Airways flights from euro-zone countries can choose to pay in euros or local currency. Major hotel chains are "euro compliant."

American Express, Thomas Cook and Visa International issue euro traveler's checks in denominations of 50,

ARTS

starting to issue euro-denominated credit and debit cards for corporate and individual travelers.

Keith Meyrick, director of worldwide-acceptance traveler's checks at American Express, said: "We've been selling about \$100,000 a day in euro checks since Jan. 1. Apart from Europe, the majority of sales are in long-hand markets - like Japan, the United States, Australia and Korea. People are saying: I'm visiting two or three countries, so instead of taking dollars, francs or Deutsche marks in cash or checks, I'll just take euros, which is a distinct advantage traveling across borders."

Paying by card is likely to be more straightforward. You don't need a curodesignated card to deal in curos - your normal card works the same as for any foreign currency. If you pay in euros, euros will show up on your statement, converted into your currency -- or at the fixed rate if you live in a euro-zone country. There is no financial gain, but it enables you to compare prices in euros and makes it easier to fill out expense

REQUENT travelers to Europe should consider opening a euro bank account and getting a eurodenominated card. Thus, whatever the transaction currency, your statement will be expressed in euros. This depends on your bank's capability. Citibank has launched a euro current account and debit card - where payments are taken directly out of your account - while some banks, such as NatWest in Britain, are planning to launch corporate euro cards. Lloyds says it can open a euro account in London with a euro debit card beginning March 1.

Hasan Alemdar, head of the singlecurrency unit at Visa International, said, "Judging from cross-border curo transactions going through our system in the last three weeks, acceptance of the euro is quite wide and will increase. A significant proportion of curo traffic is from Belgian, French, Spanish and Portuguese card-holders.

#### A Simple Plan

Directed by Sam Raimi, U.S. "Nobody'd ever believe that you'd be capable of doing what you've done," the once wholesome main character in "A Simple Plan" is told by his wife, at a point when he can barely believe it himself. Though he begins the story innocently enough, Hank Mitchell (Bill Paxton) winds up digging himself ever deeper into a hole that's impossible to escape. However straightforwardly these events are described, they become ever more gripping and unsettling as the film proceeds. Exactly how and why a chance event escalates to such intensity is at the heart of this quietly devastating thriller directed by Sam Raimi, the cult horror director ("The Evil Dead") who makes a flawless segue into mainstream storytelling. And in an acting collaboration that is as fine as their first, and could share its title ("One False Move"), Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton play our the consequences of a harmless-sounding error in judgment that winds up leveling everything in its path. Adapted by Scott B. Smith from his suspenseful and highly cinematic best-seller, it begins with the irresistible hook of a windfall that drops out of the sky. Hank and two other men accidentally happen onto a small airplane that has crashed while carrying \$4.4 million in cargo. What they do about this, and how they do it, will shape their fates forever. The plan of the title: Hank decides he will take the money and hide it for a while, waiting to see if anyone comes to claim it. He assumes this responsibility because he is the only member of the trio who has a job (at a feed store) and shows any sign of responsibility. The other two men are Hank's childlike brother Jacob, who is played with both sweetness and an edge of danger by Thornton, and Jacob's friend Lou (Brent Briscoe), later described as "a 40-year-old out-of-work high-school dropout who's proud when people call him the town drunk." So Hank, who has a tidy little home, a pretty wife and a baby on the way, is clearly the man in charge. But Hank's wife, Sarah (Bridget Fonda), turns out to be an unexpectedly powerful player in this drama. Right away, she suggests that Hank return \$500,000 to the plane, to ward off suspicions of looting. This winds up having terrible consequences when a nosy farmer gets in the way, and it's only the beginning of the story's lethal complications. The film becomes ever more enveloping as a well-honed morality tale rising to a near-biblical

#### **AU COEUR DU MENSONGE**

Directed by Claude Chabrol. France. Claude Chabrol hovers over his whodunits like a congenial host who enjoys spooking the guests. A kind of French Hitchcock who shows more interest in what his characters eat than in the horrors they may commit. Over the years, his pleasures have been our pleasures, but since the delectable "Poulet au Vinaigre," he has served the same re-

level of punishment for its characters'

transgressions. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

good losers, bad bourgeois — with care-less ease that looks sloppy. "Au coeur du mensonge" (At the Heart of a Lie) takes place in St. Malo and opens on the murder of a little girl who has been raped. Rene (Jacques Gamblin), an art teacher, is the last known person to have seen her. An artist who doesn't sell, he behaves in a jerky, asocial fashion, like a natural suspect. Viviane (Sandrine Bonnaire), the local nurse, nurtures and covers for this difficult husband. The inspector in charge of the case (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) has countless red herrings on her path, among them, a cynical Parisian writer named Germain-Roland Desmot (Antoine de Caunes) who sullies everything he touches. The actors are fine, although Gamblin seems to think he's in a movie about Van Gogh, but the denouement is not based on the characters' personalities. Can Viviane really prepare a lobster feast for Desmot when she knows the worst about him? Can we swallow it? Chabrol spikes his mix with witty lines, Prozac popping

cipe — murder in the provinces among

Bill Paxton, left, and Billy Bob Thornton in Sam Raimi's "A Simple Plan."

MOVIE GUIDE

Directed by Toru Kawashima, Japan. Fifteen years ago an extraordinarily talented but completely unknown stage actor named Shoji Kaneko brought together a number of people, including the director Toru Kawashima and a first-time feature photographer, Michi-

ROOKS

and child abuse, but he eats and enjoys

(Joan Dupoπt, ÍHT)

small-time punk named Ryuji, a film Kaneko would write, star in and eventually edit. The result was the most honest yakuza film ever made (Kaneko joined a Shinjuku gang and became a real punk in order to learn), and when it was released in 1983 it won a number of local awards. Unfortunately, it was never fully distributed. The reason was that Kaneko died at the age of 33, just weeks after finishing this remarkable first film, and the impetus went out of the project. The distribution company shelved it and that would have been the end of it except that, strangely, "Ryuji" lived on. The few who had seen the film talked about it, never forgot it, told their friends and in a decade "Ryuji" had become a cult film. When it recently came out on video, it was a smash, and now finally it is being theatrically revived in Japan and shown, one hopes, in a few foreign festivals. The big screen is where this detailed and enormously moving film belongs. One needs to see Kaneko's eyes when Ryuji changes his mind, to see that wide, arrogant mouth turn tender when he plays with his little girl (played by Kaneko's real daughter). to see him plain at the end, succumbing. failing to go straight, back in his lids, aimlessly, helplessly walking the dark Shinjuku streets. There are no Tarantino hot-shots, no punchy Kitano heroes - just an empty, terrified man who once again turns to the ease of vio-(Donald Richie, IHT)

hiko Kawagoe, to make a movie about a

#### 100, 200 and 500 euros, and banks are

GUIDE

#### BRITAIN

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, tel: (171) 704-9522, open daily. To April 11: "Zang Tumb Tumb: The Futurist Graphic Revolution." Manifestos, book covers and magazines explore the graphic revolution brought about by Futurist artists between 1909 and 1943. National Gallery, tel: (171)
747-2885, open daily. To April 25:
"Portraits by ingres: Images of an
Epoch." 40 painted portraits and 50 portrait drawings of the aristocrats, the merchants, the bankers and the diplomats of the Napoleonic era and their wives, both in France and Italy, by the

Jer (1780-1867). www.nationalgallery.org.uk Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. Continuing/To April 11: "Monet in the 20th Century." Eighty paintings from the final decades of the artist's life. www.royalacademy.org.uk

FRANCE

Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: 01-44-78-12-33, closed Tuesdays. To April 26: "David Hockney: Espace/Paysage." Brings together approximately 50 paintings, pho-tographs and installations explorlandscapes, a recent orientation in the work of the British painter (born 1937). The exhibition will travel to Bonn.

GERMANY

Waltraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (221) 221-23-82, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Fin de Siècle: Graphic Art in Europe Around 1900." More than 150 graphic works reflect the fin-de-slècle mood of nostalgia and optimism over the future, as well as the influences of impressionism, Symbolism and Art Nou-veau. Features works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Edward Munch and James Ensor.

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**ACROSS** 

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ta Store unloading

Museum of Cycledic Art, tel: (1) 722-8321, closed Sundays and Tuesdays, To Jan. 31: "Iberian Antiquities." On loan from the Shelby

25 Plains tribe

27 Auto Style

31 Whip-tailed

26 Jacques the musical Belgial



Humor and imagination in a London exhibition: Futurist alphabet letters take on the shapes of dancers.

White and Leon Levy Collection of Antiquities in New York, 70 objects representing the cultures that flour-ished in the Iberlan Peninsula from the middle of the third millennium B.C. to the Roman conquest.

ITALY

of the Middle East.

Museo Stibbert, tel: 055-448-6049, closed Thursdays. To April 30: "L'Abito per il Corpo, il Corpo per l'Abito: islam e Occidente a Confronto." More than 120 costumes allow the comparison be-European tween structured clothes and the flowing garments

43 Ending with

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www.kyklos.gr/cycladic-m/

Bunkamura Museum of Art. tel: (3) 3272-8600, open daily. Continuing/ To Feb. 14: "Masterpieces from the Musee de l'Orangerie." Eighty works by Cez-anne, Renoir, Matisse and Picasso, from the Jean Walter and Paul Guillaume collection in Paris. www.nihon.net/bunkamura

SWITZERLAND

Kunsthaus Zurich, tel: (1) 251-6765, closed Mondays. To April 25: "Chagall, Kandinsky,

Malewitsch und die Russische Avantgarde." Documents the artistic upheaval in Russian art in the first two decades of this century that led to abstraction. In addition to works by Chagail, Kandinsky and evitch, the exhibition also ncludes paintings by Larionov. Rodchenko, Popova and Filonov.

UNITED STATES

NEW HAVEN

Yale Center for British Art, tel: (203) 432-2800, closed Mondays. Reopening after extensive renovation, the center presents parallel exhibitions of the three artists who, in different ways, contributed to the evolution of British art in the 20th Etchings." More than 40 etchings created by the British painter (born 1922) over the last 20 years; "Henry Moore and the Heroic: A Centenary Tribute." Twenty sculptures dating from the 1930s through the 70s; "Francis Bacon: A Retrospective Exhibition." Sixty paintings of hu-

**CLOSING SOON** 

www.yale.edu/ycba

AMPRICAS Jan. 31: "Love and War: A Manua for Life in the Late Middle Ages." National Gallery of Art, Wash-

Feb. 2: "Jackson Pollock." Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Jan. 31: "Contemporary Por-tuguese Architecture; Sea, Stone and Space." Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong. Jan. 31: "Zao Wou-Ki; Sixty Years of Painting." Shanghai Mus Shanghai, China.

Jan. 31: "Luca Signorelli in British Collections." National Gallery,

Jan. 31: "L'Ame de la Russie Dans ses icones." Toit de la Grande Arche, Paris. MIDDLE EAST

Feb. 2: "The Joy of Color: The Merzbacher Collection." The is-' rael Museum, Jerusaiem.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

### CROSSWORD

9 "Hands Across the Sea"

#### composer 16 "Whadja say" 45 Novelis 29 Gaslight ----11 Mem. of the 49 Plucky ABA. 30 Set of sheets so Home of 12 Protector of Some canines Plateau 52 Unescorted 14 Super Bowl XIV champs -53 Hydroma Made to facility 54 Many Woodstock Love Her" (1967 hit) concertgoers 24 Area of hot 56 G.O.P. foe 57 Field manager 26 Tiger traps? 59 You don't have 28 Filed items 36 Brit's rejoinder sı Meadowizik's 32 Stall 34 So that's it!" ez Onthodontist's 35 English-style 63 Set of 150 36 Does some 64 Track sights Interior decorating 37 Common

@ New York Times/Edited by Will Short.

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a Get introduced

See our International Franchises every Wednesday

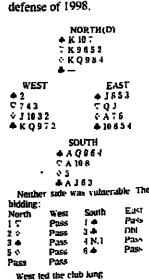
marked finesse.

crossruff. He would ruff in life, and he will surely be needs, and gets, a very lucky dummy, cash three red-suit nominated for the best heart position to succeed. The club king was led, and winners ending in dummy, defense of 1998. South won with the ace and and ruff diamonds and clubs. A fending a slam and has J led his singleton diamond. He would end up with four x x x in trump with a side ace Dummy's queen was taken by side-suit tricks, and eight ruffs, with East's spade jack

Robson, a member of the trapped at the finish. a trump, which would cosmopolitan foursome that So Robson made an apparthe Reisinger ently suicidal play. At the Never? Well hardly ever, Board-a-Match Team Cham- third trick he returned a pionships at the Fall Nation- trump. Now South could have als, thought carefully. The succeeded by playing for a It was played in London in obvious play was to return a miracle in the heart suit, but the prestigious Lederer Me- club, forcing the dummy to he naturally worked on diamorial Team Championship, ruff and making it impossible monds, planning to make use and East was Andrew Rob- for South to draw trumps in of the fifth diamond in son. His partner was Zia Mah- the normal way, by dropping dummy. He assumed, quite mood, who reported the pro- the 10 under the ace, leading reasonably, that the spades ceedings in his column in The to the king, and taking a were divided three-two. Now he was defeated by East's

But Robson, looking trump holding. Robson's potential trump 5 % of slams, and selected six deeply into the position, saw spades. This was far better in that the club return would trick, which he had appartheory than six hearts, which force South into a successful ently sacrificed, came back to

11



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> Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 28 PENACANOFWO

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in The Intermarket

An Adventure By Doris Lessing. 407 pages. \$25. Harper Flamingo. Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

MARA AND DANN

ITH "Mara and Dann," Doris Lessing returns to Africa, the continent that so richly inspired her earliest fiction. The place is now called Ifrik, however, and it's light years removed from the Africa described with such realism and ardor in her early Martha Ouest novels. Though closer, in many respects. to the remote, mythic realms conjured up in her "Canopus in Argos" series, it's

even less imaginatively rendered. "Mara and Dann" takes place in the distant future, thousands and thousands of years after a great ice age has destroved civilization. Most of the world is still uninhabitable, and a killing drought has turned most of southern Ifrik into a desert. Among the refugees making their way north are Mara and Dann, the heroes of this rambling, picaresque novel. Their tiresome adventures not only recapitulate assorted myths and fables but also embody several of Lessing's favorite themes: the ever shifting relationship between individuals and sociery, and the eternal tension between domesticity and freedom, responsibility and independence.

As the novel opens, another of Lessing's coolly omniscient narrators informs us that 7-year-old Mara and her 4-year-old brother, Dann, have been abducted and taken for their safekeeping to a remote Rock People's village. Their murdered parents were members of the Mahondi royal court, it seems, and the rwo children - much like Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia in ' Wars" -have been given new identities for their own protection.

In the Rock People's village, a kindly

By Alan Truscott

He will, of course, never lead

North-South had a choice

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old woman named Daima looks after Mara and Dann. Water and food are painfully scarce here, and the few people in the village who have not left in search of a better life are close to dying of starvation. Life, in fact, is conducted on a sort of Stone Age subsistence level: Virtually all knowledge of technology and science has been lost, and even basic facts of history have slipped into

the misty realm of rumor and legend. Years pass, and Dann leaves the village with two strangers, while Mara stays on to care for the ailing Daima. The drought has worsened, and the two women are now the village's only residents. More years pass, Daima dies and Dann returns to rescue his sister. The two then set off, with their family legacy of 50 gold pieces, and head north, like so many refugees before them.

The remainder of Lessing's novel quickly devolves into a series of repetitious and annoyingly predictable encounters with evil villains, kindly benefactors and unforgiving weather. Mara and Dann doggedly make their way through hot, dusty deserts and menacing little towns filled with spies and informers. One or the other of them is constantly being kidnapped, enslaved or drafted into an army. And the other one is constantly rescuing his or her sibling.

Virtually all the bad people Mara and Dann meet are short, thick and ugly; virtually all the good people they meet are tall, thin and gracious. These Manichaean dichotomies are not the only thing that this novel has in common with Lessing's "Canopus in Argos" series; the books also share a fairy tale flamess, an overfondness for easy symbolism and a tendency to look at human affairs from a telescopic distance that reduces all governments, all peoples to pawns in a cosmic cycle of "rise and fall, fall and rise."

The problem is that "Mara and Dann" lacks the operatic grandeur of the "Canopus" novels, and it also feels perfunctory in the extreme, as if the author were randomly stringing one incident upon the last, one crisis upon another. Although the kindhearted Mara is a sympathetic heroine - a survivor, like so many of Lessing's women, who is defined largely by her travails - she is a pallid, two-dimensional version of the characters who were delineated with

such psychological and social detail in the author's early, more realistic work. As for Dann, he is a hodgepodge of male attitudes and postures, alternately childish and commanding, mercenary and protective. The minor characters in the novel are crude types, not individuals, people defined solely by their role in helping or hindering Mara and

Dann in their quest to move north. In the end, the moral of this cautionary tale is equally simplistic. It's a moral about the catastrophic destruction of civilization, a moral that has surfaced many times before in Lessing's work (in as early a novel as "The Four-Gated City" and again and again throughout the "Canopus" series) but never quite as simplistically as in this dreary novel.

Of the so-called ancients — that is. modern human beings who were supposedly killed off by the ice age -Lessing writes in her flat-footed way: "These were peoples who had no interest in the results of their actions. They killed out the animals. They poisoned the fish in the sea. They cut down forests. so that country after country, once forested, became desert or arid. They spoiled everything they touched. There was probably something wrong with their brains. There are many historians who believe that these ancients richly deserved the punishment of the Ice. New York Times Service

#### BRIDGE

# A Phone Intercept Links Belgrade to an Order to Kill 45 in Kosovo

By R. Jeffrey Smith Washington Past Service

RACAK, Yugoslavia - A troop and police attack on this Kosovo village two weeks ago, which led to the death of 45 ethnic Albanian civilians, was carried out at the order of senior officials of the Serbian-led Belgrade government, who then orchestrated a cover-up attempt after an international outcry, according to Western intercepts of telephone conversations

Angered by the slaying of three policemen in Kosovo, the officials ordered government forces to "go in heavy" on Jan. 15 and search Racak for ethnic Albanian guerrillas believed responsible for the ambush slayings, according to Western sources familiar with the

As the civilian death toll from the assault mounted and criticism spread, a high-ranking political figure in Belgrade and a senior commander of security operations in Kosovo sought to cover up what had taken place, according to the monitored conversations.

Details of the conversations shed new light on the attack and its aftermath, which have again brought NATO to the brink of confrontation with President Slobodan Milosevic over his government's repression of separatist ethnic Albanians in Kosovo

In a series of conversations, the Belgrade official and the general expressed concern about reaction to the Racak killings and discussed how to make them look as if they had resulted from a battle between troops and insurgents of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The objective was to challenge claims by survivors — later supported by international monitors — that the rictims had been killed in an executionstyle massacre.

Yugoslav Army troops and police units of the Serbian Interior Ministry have waged an 11-month campaign against ethnic Albanian guerrillas seeking independence for Kosovo.

In an October accord imposed on President Milosevic, under the threat of NATO air strikes, the Yngoslav leader agreed to withdraw some of his forces from Kosovo. The conflict eased as both sides maintained an unofficial truce.

That changed in Racak when army and police units converged on the area. As a result of the attack, the village has been transformed into a ghostly place,

Many of its houses, cloaked by a

dense fog obscuring surrounding ice-covered thickets and leafless trees, were shattered by direct fire from three T-55 tanks. Now there are only a few dogs, braying donkeys and other barnyard an-

One source familiar with the phone calls between military leaders in Kosovo and officials in Belgrade on Jan'. 15 and succeeding days said they showed that the intent was to find three guerrillas accused in the ambush of a police convoy on Jan. 8 near Racak. 'It was a search and destroy mis-

sion" with explicit approval in Belgrade, the source said. As tank and artillery fire and the

chatter of machine-guns echoed off the hills surrounding Racak, the Belgrade political figure called the general in Kosovo, according to Western sources The Belgrade official was aware that the assault was under way, and he

of that moment the tally was 22. In calls over the following days, the two expressed concern about the outcry and discussed how to make the killings look like the result of a battle.

wanted to know how many people had

been killed. The general replied that as

One measure the Belgrade official advocated in his calls was to seal Kosovo's border with Macedonia to prevent Louise Arbour, the UN war crimes tribunal prosecutor, from entering the province.

Another measure was to demand that Interior Ministry troops regain control of Racak and get the bodies. Serbs assaulted the village Jan. 17. The following day they seized the bodies at a mosque and transferred them to a morgue in Pristina, the capital.

A third measure was to explore whether the killings could be blamed on an independent group that supposedly came to the region and attacked the residents of Racak after government troops had left.

The official was advised that making such a claim was not feasible.

Shortly after the Jan. 15 attack, a Yugoslav spokesman said that the bodies found on the hillside were armed, uniformed members of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The account was challenged by international inspectors and journalists who arrived on the scene Jan. 16 and found dozens of corpses on the ground, all in civilian clothes.

Government officials later alleged

that some of the victims had been accidentally caught in cross-fire between liberately slain by guerrillas to provoke

international outrage.
But survivors, diplomatic observers and rebels who were in the area at the time of the killings say that little shooting occurred inside the town early in the assault Jan. 15 and that no battle was under way at around 1 P.M., when most of the victims were evidently killed.

These sources say that Kosovo Liberation Army forces were not deployed near a gully where at least 23 of the bodies were found, and that none of the trees in the area bore bullet marks as would be expected after a battle.

A team of forensic pathologists that arrived in Kosovo from Finland last Friday, a week after the killings, found nothing to contradict these accounts, according to a Western official.

"A picture is beginning to emerge from the autopsies, and it is a tragic one," said another source, explaining that the types of wound indicate they were "humiliated" before being fired on from several directions.

The last of the antopsies were expected to be completed on Wednesday, and the Finnish pathologists said their final report would be ready next week. Their preliminary conclusion is con-

sistent with an account given on Jan. 16
by Imri Jakupi, 32, a resident of Racak
who said he escaped into the woods.
He said that he and other men had
been rounded up by security forces
wouse-to-house searches. security forces and rebels or were desistent with an account given on Jan. 16 been rounded up by security forces in-house to house searches and ordered to walk along a ravine before troops "star.

ted shooting from the hills at us." Villagers told inspectors and reporter ers at the scene on Jan. 17 that many of the dead were last seen alive in the hand; of Interior Ministry troops wearing black ski masks. Survivors said they managed to recognized some local policemen and Serbian civilians in the

masks. Mr. Jakupi and another Racak resident, Rem Shabani, said they had overheard what some of what the troops were saying on their walkie-talkies as two groups of men were being led away from the village.

"How many of them are there?" one soldier asked. When the reply came back as 29, Mr. Shabani recalled, the order given was: "O.K., bring them

Mr. Jakupi said he then overheard another order: "Now get ready to shoot.

He fled, he said, before the shots rang

# In Missile Alert, U.S. Jets Hit Iraqi Air Defense Site

INCIRLIK, Turkey - U.S. warplanes flying from a base in southern Turkey attacked an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile emplacement in northern Iraq on Thursday, the U.S. Air Force said.

The incident came shortly after the base, at Incirlik, was put on a state of alert amid fear of a missile attack from Iraq. Allied sources in Ankara said a U.S. tracking station had picked up a possible launch from northern Iraq in the di-

rection of the Turkish border. But the 'target'' disappeared from screens, and the alarm was canceled. A spokeswoman at Incirlik, a complex of red-brick buildings behind wire on the Anatolian plain, said two F-15 fighter-bombers on a routine patrol of the no-flight zone in northern Iraq had been targeted by anti-aircraft radar

north of Mosul. The U.S. aircraft responded with three precision-guided bombs before returning to Incirlik.

"Damage to the Iraqi missile site is currently being assessed," she said. American and British warplanes have enforced a no-flight zone north of the 36th parallel since the 1991 Gulf War to try to protect the Kurdish population from attack by President Saddam Hus-

sein's forces. The alert at Incirlik highlighted the growing tensions in the area this week after a series of similar strikes against Iraqi targets by U.S. planes.

Continued from Page 1

judging the potential profitability of one

European country or region against an-

fluctuations no longer affecting entre-

preneurs' risk calculations in relation to

the low-wage countries, and the assur-

ance that the euro zone's tight inflation

criteria will hold off dramatic increases

in these countries' pay levels, trade un-

ions in the high-wage countries of Ger-

many, the Netherlands and Belgium re-

gard the new situation as deeply

After years of low growth and high

unemployment sometimes linked to the

austerity measures that brought

Europe's currencies into convergence,

the contrasting labor costs now illustrate

how the coming of the common cur-

rency may exact a new price in terms of

Union Confederation's research unit in

Brussels said: "There is a fear by the

trade unions that this competitive cli-

mate will lead entrepreneurs to undercut

on wages. You can imagine a downward

spiral. There is a fear on the unions' side

that the competitive pressures will en-

courage companies and even govern-

ments to go from country to country to

see who can go furthest down on

Lafontaine of Germany seemed to be on

the unions' wavelength and ready to

move in favor of their standpoint within

"It would be wrong if the economy of

a region or a state tried to create a

competitive advantage for itself by for-

cing down its salary costs.

That's why salary policy has to be

coordinated. The unions have to talk

For a time, Finance Minister Oskar

David Foden of the European Trade

troubling.

people's lives

the EU. He said;

With concerns about exchange-rate

A statement by the Turkish general staff said there was an explosion northeast of Mosul at the time Incirlik was put on alert and that this may have been interpreted as a missile launch. It did not

say what had caused the blast.
"Turkish air defense systems are ready to answer every kind of threat,"

the general staff's statement said. A statement by the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart said troops at Incirlik, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the Mediterranean Sea, had donned protective gear. Gates were closed and traffic was halted.

#### ■ General Ouestions U.S. Policy

The general who commands U.S. forces in the Gulf area questioned Thursday the policy that has become the centerpiece of U.S. policy toward Iraq - support for opposition groups in hope of toppling Mr. Saddam — The Associated Press reported from Washington.

"I will be honest: I don't see an opposition group that has the viability to overthrow Saddam at this point," Gen-eral Anthony Zinni of the Marine Corps told the Senate Armed Services Com-The policy of supporting opposition

groups, "if not done properly, could be very dangerous," General Zinni said. He raised the prospect of dozens of splinter groups competing for power. "The last thing we need is another rogue regime," he said.

EURO: Is Common Currency Putting Downward Pressure on Pay

among themselves and use the Euro-

pean institutions in which the unions

For politicians, the issue involves dealing with the reality that their coun-

try could be facing a loss in jobs even as

European competitiveness might be

benefiting in general from an overall

ecode, said he considered Germany and

Belgium to be facing problems because

He regarded France as being hurt to a

lesser degree, Italy in a neutral position

and Spain and Portugal as clear be-

As much as he welcomed Mr. La-

fontaine's view, Hans de Vries, national

negotiator for the metal and electrical

industry workers' union in the Neth-

erlands and an activist among labor

leaders pressing for a transnational ap-

proach in Europe, said the unions so far

had received "more sympathy than real

support" from their countries' left-of-

ordinating across-border salary policy would be extremely difficult and that

there were great impediments to it with-

in individual countries. But he said the

European Metalworkers' Federation

was pushing its members toward adopt-

ing minimum standards and that the

automotive and shipbuilding sectors

would be among the first to be tar-

best in areas where there are common

patterns and practices, such as Germany

and the Benelux countries, Mr. de Vries

said. Short of transnational collective

bargaining, the unions are also pressing

for harmonization of tax policy across

VOLVO: Ford to Pay \$6.5 Billion to Bolster Its Presence in Europe

But it will not be easy to get other

The chances of making headway are

Mr. de Vries acknowledged that co-

Michel Didier, the director of Rex-

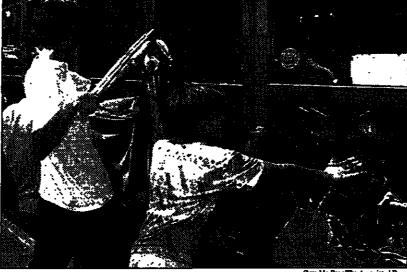
and employers are represented."

labor-cost shakeout.

of their labor costs.

center politicians.

neficiaries.



Looters breaking a shop window in Armenia, Colombia, days after the earthquake, whose toll reached nearly 900 and more than 3,400 injured.

### KOSOVO: NATO Chief Gives a Warning

Continued from Page 1

its demands on Kosovo are met. Some ingredients still need cook-

ing, but it looks like we're getting there," a NATO official said about the emerging consensus — apparently in-cluding Russia — behind an approach largely inspired by the Clinton admin-

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had threatened to boycott the Contact Group meeting unless it was prepared to meet minimal U.S. con-

unions on board on the central issue of

salaries, said Joachim Kreimer-de Fries,

who directs European wage policy for

the German Trade Union Federation.

He said he believed it would be difficult

to include Spain and Portugal, whose

unions he described as less eager to link

wages and productivity.
At the same time, there are indi-

cations of an increasing effort by low-

wage countries in the euro zone to at-

tract businesses from higher-wage

areas. Joao Alves Pereira, head of Por-

tugal's 25-person investment office in

Paris, described the competition from

Mr. Pereira flees the hard sell and

talks about Portugal as if it were in-

teresting largely because of its work

ethic and new training programs. But beyond his practiced diffidence, Mr.

Pereira reports success from France,

The investment office's bulletins

clearly state Portugal's wage advant-

ages, and Mr. Pereira becomes more direct when he is asked whether he is

concerned by union attempts to level

"You're talking about evolutionary change," he said. Referring to the

Maastricht treaty on European union, he

added: "The Maastricht rules are clear.

Inflation levels are limited. If you're

talking about relocating, it's worth it for

Hourly labor costs — the figures that were used for this article, from Eurostat,

include tax, pension and social security

payments - are obviously only part of

the calculation that goes into choosing

sites for industrial facilities. Productiv-

ity, geographic advantage and political

climate also matter. But wage consid-

erations have been accentuated, the un-

ions say, by the euro's leveling out of

foreign-exchange and interest-rate

them ont

10 years or more."

countries such as Ireland as great

ditions, said early Thursday that she would attend the critical session.

The complex approach, balancing NATO pressure and the contact group's political plan, is designed to keep Russian opposition from blocking an allied consensus on using force if necessary, officials said

Formally unveiling the drive for a Kosovo settlement, Mr. Solana read a statement Thursday at NATO headquarters saying: "The appropriate authorities in Belgrade and representatives of the Kosovo Albanian leadership must agree to the proposals to be issued by the Contact Group for completing an interim political settlement within the time frame to be established.

Mr. Solana appeared to deliberately reserve the term "ultimatum" for the Contact Group, saying that it was expected to issue "a political ultimatum" about the peace talks.

In deference to European concern and Russian irritation - about an approach in which NATO seemed to manage international policy toward Serbia, the Clinton administration has been supple about letting the contact group produce the political blueprint for a Kosovo settlement.

Largely inspired by the United States. these plans for the end game in Kosovo seemed to echo the process over Bosnia three years ago, including Dayton-style negotiations at a forced pace, NATO military pressure to get the parties to the table and - still to be decided on - the use of ground troops from NATO nations including the United States to po-

lice an accord. .Washington has "become much more forward-leaning" on a role for American troops, a Clinton administration official said, provided they were deployed in the american trace. deployed in the context of a cease-fire and not sent into combat to separate the parties by force. The coercive role has only been envisaged for NATO air power, including U.S. cruise missiles.

Like the Clinton administration, Germany and other countries may prefer postponing a debate about the politically charged question of ground troops until the proximity talks begin or per-haps even until they end.

The autonomy package — leaving Belgrade only the management of international affairs for the province will dissatisfy both the Serbs who claim Kosovo and the Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas who want indepen-

U.S. officials felt that they got implicit support from an unexpected quarter Thursday when the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, acknowledged the difficulties of intervening in crises nominally within the jurisdiction of a sovereign state.

In a speech at NATO headquarters, Mr. Annan went on: "The international community should have no illusions about the need to use force when all other means have failed. We may be reaching that point once again in the former Yugoslavia."

#### New Fighting in Kosovo

southwestern border Thursday even as NATO reinforced its threat to use force to halt the year-old conflict. The Associated Press reported from Pristina.

Yugoslav troops battled a large group of ethnic Albanian rebels caught trying to smnggle weapons from neighboring Albania, according to Serbian sources in Pristina, the provincial capital.

### **QUAKE:** Looting Plagues Colombian City

Continued from Page 1

had never confronted a disaster of this "We are talking about thousands and thousands of families," he said, adding that about 25,000 military food rations were being distributed to the

Ten people were injured in the looting and clashes with the police in Armenia, said Dr. Jorge Lopez, director of the city's San Juan de Dios hospital.

"We're hungry, and we can't get by hungry," said Freddy Guerrero, a carpenter who, like hundreds of others, emerged from Armenia's central supermarket carrying bags of rice, milk

and beans. "I'm desperate."

In some neighborhoods in Armenia and neighboring Calarca, residents banded together to confront looters, including some convicts who escaped from prisons after the quake, said the national police chief, General Rosso

Jose Serrano. Looting also broke out in nearby Pereira, where people smashed open doors, windows and metal barriers to get at store shelves. Outside one market, they shouted at the police, fists in the air, ignoring warning shots. The police failed

to stop them with their billy clubs.

The quake devastated much of Colombia's coffee belt. Reconstruction costs were expected to exceed \$100

million, said Interior Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez. Search and rescue teams from the United States, Mexico, Japan, France

and Britain scrambled over and into dozens of collapsed buildings, looking for more victims, alive or dead. Sparks lit up the drizzly night in downtown Armenia as helmeted Jananese rescuers cut through twisted steel

girders with a chain saw. They hoped to find life below a 45meter-high (150-foot-high) pile of rubble the remains of a five-story building that buried as many as two dozen cus-

tomers in a first-floor cafeteria. There is a tremendous lack of coordination. Everyone is working on their own," said Raul Gonzalez, a Colombian fire fighter who was searching a collapsed hotel a block away. "There is no central command point, which is

critical in this kind of emergency." At least three people were rescued Wednesday, including a 65-year-old man and a 16-year-old boy taken from a collapsed six-story apartment building.

Dozens of survivors, many in tears, went before TV cameras to tell anyone they might know who was watching that they were safe but needed help. Amid the chaos, dazed children walked the streets, looking for their parents. Many people chose to leave Armenia, and cars choked the road leading to Cali.

### FISCHER: Not Fazed by Berlin Ghosts

Continued from Page 1

long-held assumptions that Germany will bankroll the European Union because the country still has a moral debt to pay.

So, is he a loose cannon, this 50-yearold former member of the Revolutionary Struggle movement? It seems not. For all his evident convictions, Mr. Fischer appears to have found in the passage from protest to responsibility a school of pragmatism and balance.

Take Kosovo. Like most members of the Greens, a party with origins in the peace movement, Mr. Fischer has little taste for military force. Above all, he believes, a political strategy is needed to stop the fighting in the southern Serbian province. "We must bring the two sides to the table," he said. "We must start a political process. Air power is worth nothing if there is no political

But asked if he therefore opposed NATO air strikes, Mr. Fischer said: "I am not a friend of using force, but sometimes it is a necessary means of last resort. So I am ready to use it if there is no other way. If people are being massacred, you cannot mutter about having no mandate. You must act."

However, as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seeks to redefine itself preparing a new post-Cold War docume to be unveiled at a 50th anniversary summit meeting in Washington in April, it is inevitable that "the global American superpower" and "more cautions" Europeans will have some differences, Mr. Fischer suggested

"NATO has always had a regional structure," he said, "and I think it is not without risk to open that structure and propel the organization toward broader purposes and a broader area."

This warning was evidently meant to counter American proposals that NATO see itself now as an "alliance of interests," in some instances taking on far-flung missions against chemical and biological weapons, nuclear prolifera-

Mr. Fischer said that rather than being "reactive," NATO should energetically seek means to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. His proposal that the alliance renounce the first use of nuclear weapons remains on the table, he added, but will not be discussed before the Washington summit meeting.

American officials have not been amused by Mr. Fischer's suggestion that first use be renounced, and one said, on the condition of anonymity, that the foreign minister had failed to build trust.

Beyond the sparring, it appears clear that a new German-American relationship is in the making, in which the country that the United States helped rebuild from postwar ruin will no longer automatically bow in grateful acqui-escence. Mr. Fischer is tentatively due in Washington and Canada about the first of March.

Turning to Europe, Mr. Fischer said the European nation-state was now shaped by forces beyond its control. With the introduction of a single currency, the euro, he added, an important part of sovereignty has been abandoned and it is inevitable that steps toward greater political integration will fol-

And will Berlin - with its granite Nazi buildings, its size, its gargantuan new construction projects and its memories - stir the nationalist in the German soul? The debate on this question is active,

and the decision to put ministries in old Nazi buildings — including the Reichsbank, where Hitler's bust once stood in the lobby - is still contested by some. But the alternative of entirely new construction would have been prohibitively

expensive.
'Fears about Berlin will remain only that — fears," said Mr. Fischer, who appears to relish the quirks of history that soon will place him in a building completed in 1940. "We are passionate federalists in Germany, and the move will not change that."

# CHINA: 8 Die in an Unreported Bombing

Continued from Page 1

also been the site of recent worker and farmer protests over corruption, unpaid wages and taxes. Used in mines and elsewhere, ex-

plosives are widely available in rural China. Accidental explosions and blasts set in personal vendettas or robberies are not rare. There has been no public evidence that the recent explosions in Hunan or others reported around the country involved political motives. On Jan. 17, a crude bomb exploded in

a bus in the provincial capital of Changsha, seriously injuring four people, including one woman who lost both legs. Witnesses said a man who appeared to be a farmer put a lighted cigarette into a bag and got off the bus before the bag goal for 1999.

exploded, according to Xinhua, the official news agency. No arrests have been announced in that case. In early January in Daolin township,

just outside Changsha, thousands of farmers held a series of protests against what they called excessive and arbitrary taxes levied by corrupt local officials. On Jan. 8, as police dispersed the crowd with clubs and tear gas, one protester was killed when he was hit by a gas canister and bled to death, according to local witnesses and a human rights group in Hong Kong.

With the economy slowing, unem-ployment rising and protests by unpaid workers or overtaxed farmers erupting frequently, China's leaders have said that social stability is their pre-eminent

#### Continued from Page 1 ination in the single European currency. ilar Ford and Volvo models. with Renault in 1993, while some of Ford appeared determined to soothe Asia's struggling automakers are deep any political anxieties by promising to

in debt. Nissan's indebtedness stands at nearly \$38 billion. "So far, no one has shown the appetite to do the difficult deal," Mr.

Lawson said. The acquisition of Volvo is the latest in a string of deals that have seen a

number of top Swedish corporations pass into foreign hands or move abroad, such as the drugmakers Astra AB and Pharmacia AB and the paper company Stora AB. The deals have heightened fears that the country could be marginalized by globalization and as a result have year. Later on it intends to move toward current luxury brands.

bolstered support for Swedish partic-

maintain the "Swedishness of Volvo," as Mr. Nasser put it. Just as Ford has maintained Jaguar as a distinctly British subsidiary, the company will operate Volvo as a separate business unit based in Gothenburg and keep its three Swedish production facilities as well as its research and development capabil-

Ford will concentrate initially on gen-

erating savings through common parts purchases, which some analysts have

estimated could save \$150 million a

common platforms, or chassis, for sim-

Ford also was expected to try to extend Volvo's range to include minivans and sport-utility vehicles, which Mr. Nasser hinted at by saying that the Volvo brand "has quite a lot of flexibility and versatility." Ford sold about 200,000 Lincolns

and Jaguars last year, but with Volvo it could sell 1 million premium cars a year early in the next decade, Mr. Nasser said. Volvo also brings attractive demographics. Half of its American customers are women and three-quarters are under 55, a sharp contrast to the predominantly older, male buyers of its

Fighting broke out along Kosovo's

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# Top CEOs Are Upbeat On Business

Survey Finds Their Views Differ From Economists'

By Jonathan Gage International Herald Tribune

DAVOS, Switzerland - Putting behind them a year and a half of intense financial and economic turmoil, leading corporate executives around the world expressed remarkable optimism about business prospects in a survey made public Thursday.

More than 80 percent of the 802 chief

executives surveyed in 19 countries said they were upbeat about prospects for the

The attitudes of the CEOs provided a sharp contrast with the views of many economists and other analysts who eathered Thursday for the appeal re Han Euroland gathered Thursday for the annual meet-ing of the World Economic Forum in this Swiss Alpine village.
"There will be a convulsion in the

world economy the likes of which we've never seen before'

Kenneth. Courtis, chief econ-ECONOMIC omist and strategist for Deutsche Bank Group in Tokyo, unless policymakers manage to pull

back from the current path of excess industrial capacity, high levels of debt and structurally slow growth. He pre-ted sharp cuts in interest rates and taxes in both Europe and the United States to achieve that end.

Both Mr. Courtis and Rudiger Dombusch, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, warned of increasingly vicious trade tensions un-less growth and financial stability are

Mr. Dornbusch called Michel Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund, which has come under criticism for its response to the global financial crisis, "a monument to the failure of the worldwide economic stabilization effort. Every emerging market has become a casino, and he is the chief

James Schiro, chief executive of PricewaterhouseCoopers, called the buoyant results of the CEO survey "an attitude, not a guarantee" of future corporate behavior. He nonetheless said it was an encouraging sign for the global economy because the business leaders polled appeared unhesitant about con-

tinuing to invest. The survey was conducted between June and September, "when volatility in financial markets would have made cantion and pessimism understandable,' the survey said. It polled chief executives of large corporations in Asia, Europe,

Latin America and North America. Even in Asia, 71 percent of CEOs surveyed called themselves "optimistic" about future business.

The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum draws 2,000 participants to this ski resort, including the chief executives of many of the world's biggest companies, scores of government leaders and leading economists, for a flurry of brainstorming, negotiating and dealmaking.

# Bile in Bangkok: Battle of the Luxury Hotels







Kurt Wachtveitl, who runs the Oriental Hotel in the Thai capital.

# Low Sales and High Dudgeon in a Top-End Market

By Thomas Crampton International Herald Tribuse

BANGKOK — Folding his luncheon napkin neatly on the table, Kurt Wachtveitl, the immaculately dressed German-born general manager of the Oriental Hotel here, stood up to peer across the Chao

Phraya River at a newly opened rival establishment.

'Oh, look,' he said. "There are finally two people in the Peninsula's pool. It must be the barman and a waiter."

So the white gloves are off in Bangkok's battle of the luxury hoteliers.

Barbed insults and allegations of ungentlemanly acts have been flying across this city's meandering brown river since late last year, when the Hong Kong-based Peninsula Group opened an opulent hotel on the opposite bank from establishments owned by two ritzy rivals: Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group International Ltd. and Shangri-La Hotels &

Each of the three impeccably mannered, European-trained hotel managers insists on fair play and friendliness, but stories quickly spill out of scuffles over staff, amenities and location. Whispers have even been heard of a luxnry-hotel price war.

The fundamental problem is a glut of rooms. While Thailand's tourist arrivals have nearly doubled over the past decade to more than 7 million a year, overinvestment in real estate tripled the number of top-flight hotel rooms, to more than 20,000 in Bangkok, over the same period.

Growing competition for clients, Mr. Wachtveitl said, has kept the Oriental's discounted room rate now \$200 a night — steady for eight years. The hotels preserve their aura of exclusivity by keeping published rates high while offering regular discounts that can cut room rates by more than 25 percent. Virtually no guest in Bangkok pays the full rate.

The Shangri-La's discount price is now \$180 a night, including amenities such as free airport transfers, while the Peninsula undercuts both at \$175 a

"A price war is extremely dangerous when your hotel relies on a luxury image," said Richard Chap-man, the soft-spoken Englishman who runs the Shangri-La. "The next 12 months will make a very interesting business-school study on the delicate balance between discount marketing and luxury im-

All three riverside hotels target affluent travelers, but their marketing tactics differ sharply.

The Oriental asserts an aristocratic heritage and plays up connections to famed writers who slept there, including Joseph Conrad and Barbara Cartland; the Peninsula promotes its sophisticated design and high-tech accourrements; while the Shangri-La, with more rooms than the other two put together, claims to combine luxury lodging with world-class conference facilities.

The stakes are high, but the competition -- and rhetoric — occasionally verges on the vulgar.

"All the publicity I see about that new hotel is how the toilets have six telephones and a waterproof television set," Mr. Wachtveitl of the Oriental said over a three-course lunch at his formal Normandie Restaurant. "Personally I don't know how you would talk on them all, and this certainly is not what my guests want to do.

The Peninsula's bathrooms actually have just three telephones, Heinz Waldvogel, the general manager, said. But he maintains that his hotel's technologypacked privies - which include an automatic mute on the television when calls come through to the bathtub --- show that the Oriental is out of step with modern times.

"Top deluxe hotels should offer every possible amenity that clients have at home," he said, shouting above live rock music in his hotel's aerodynamically

Mr. Wachtveitl countered that he had often stayed as a guest in his clients' homes. "They live in chateaux in Europe that are not cluttered with lights that turn on when you talk to them." he said. "They certainly do not want to feel like they are sleeping on a factory floor."

Location is extremely important in Bangkok, where the city's legendary traffic regularly slows movement on roads and bridges to a crawl -- a distinct disadvantage to the Peninsula.

Sitting on the opposite side of the river from the central business district and from its two rivals, the Peninsula tries to minimize the impact of its location with a private ferry service of teak-festooned boats

See HOTELS, Page 12

# For Yahoo!, **Another Big Brand Name**

Internet Search Service Plans to Buy GeoCities

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Yahoo! Inc. said Thursday that it would buy GeoCities Inc. for \$4.58 billion in stock, securing Yahoo!'s position among the dominant

Internet search and directory services.

The deal gives Yahoo! another powerful brand name while helping GeoCities reach more users of the World Wide Web. Moreover, the addition of GeoCities' Internet traffic may make Yahoo! the No. 1 destination on the Web, according to figures from Media Metrix Inc., a research firm.

"We anticipate maintaining GeoCit-ies as a stand-alone, very, very strong brand - there's a lot of brand equity in this company," said Tim Koogle, chief executive officer of Yahoo! The deal is expected to close by June.

The 52 percent premium Yahoo! is paying for GeoCities underscores the stratospheric valuations of these small companies, most of which did not exist a

few years ago. GeoCities' sales of \$7.5 million resulted in a loss of \$8.4 million last year. Yahoo! earned \$18.5 million on sales of \$76.4 million in its latest quarter. Saul Hansell of The New York Times

reported earlier: Yahoo! is the top-rated of the Internet sites that have come to be known as portals because they serve as gateways to a wide range of information and online services. But most of its competitors have recently been bolstered

through acquisitions At Home Corp. is starting to offer fast Internet services over cable television wires. Netscape Communications Corp., with its Netcenter portal, was bought by America Online Inc. Walt Disney Co. bought part of Infoseek Corp., another portal, and folded it into its new portal, Go Network. Microsoft Corp. has redoubled its efforts to pro-

mote its MSN portal. This week, Compaq Computer Corp. announced plans to expand and partly spin off its Alta Vista portal service.

Paul Noglows of Hambrecht & Quist in San Francisco said of Yahoo!, "Geo-Cities would not only give them in-cremental traffic but also the most significant player in the community

GeoCities is the leading service that creates electronic communities of people who share various interests. It mainly allows people to set up their own home pages on the internet on any topic from family photos to sports-car collecting. With more than 3 million members, it is among the most popular sites on the Internet.

In December, Geocities.com was the third-most-visited Web site, with 19 million unique visitors, according to Media Metrix. The top-rated site was America Online's site, aol.com, with 28 million visitors. Yahoo! was No. 2 with

GeoCities hopes to profit by selling advertising that appears on these home pages. But its revenue growth has been slower than other Internet companies because many advertisers are shy about placing their messages on pages that GeoCities does not have direct control

# U.S. Steel Imports From Japan Fell in December

steel imports from Japan sitive, with American steel dropped sharply in Decem- producers and two steelworkber, the Commerce Departer unions filing dumping and the European Union.
The EU has called form which could ease the pressure Russia and Brazil. The unions on the government from and producers accuse those American producers seeking

sanctions against Japan. The department provided preliminary figures showing that Japanese producers had shipped 384,597 metric tons of steel products into the United States, a 47 percent decrease from the total of tariffs on imports, that country 728,478 tons in November.

Charlene Barshefsky, the U.S. trade representative, had promised a government-initiated trade complaint against Japan unless the December tool of U.S. trade policy, the figures showed a substantial so-called Super 301 provi-

**Cross Rates** 

New York (b)

Zurich

countries of flooding the United States with hot-rolled carbon steel, the most common product, at prices lower

than the costs of making it. Even if Japan averts for now still faces U.S. pressure on trade in the months ahead.

This week, President Bill Clinton's administration said it was reviving a controversial

sanctions. That move drew was really turned up," said angry responses from Japan Mark Vitner, an economist at The EU has called for a ment in Charlotte, North Car-

World Trade Organization olina. "The general theme is dispute settlement panel to clearly there — volumes are rule on Super 301, a spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, said Thursday. The EU considers the provision incompatible with WTO regulations.

The sharp decrease in Japanese steel imports — as well as a parallel drop in imports from Russia in December appears to reflect the prospect to more than 10,000 layoffs in additional tariffs

threatened in a November ruling by the U.S. Commerce De-'It's not surprising there ted the "declining trend" to

Other Dollar Values

**European Cross Rates** 

\$ £ SF Yen CS Dane Greek Swede

1.6478 — 2.3255 191.52 2.5147 10.7338 463.76 12.7804

1.6478 — 2.3255 191.52 1.518 6.516 281.55 7.7631

1.518 1.6493 1.4117 116.35 1.518 6.516 281.55 7.7631

1.519 2.5056 1.0763 1.3046 — 0.2332 0.5395 0.195

1.519 2.5056 1.0763 1.3046 — 0.2332 0.5395 0.195

1.4162 2.3323 — 1.2142 0.9284 21.6993 0.5019 0.1824

Computed by Our Stell Fram Deportus

The issue of steel imports tries perceived as erecting barwas a pullback in December; continue "into January and WASHINGTON — U.S. has become politically senriers to U.S. goods with stiff that's when the political heat beyond" and said it "should First Union Capital Manage-

> up so much in '98.'' For the year through November, Japanese imports are due in about three weeks. climbed to 5.7 million metric Mr. Clinton's administration tons, nearly three times the decided to release prelimin-2.1 million metric tons in the ary data, beginning with the same period in 1997. Japan is December figures, to give the the largest U.S. source of steel domestic industry an earlier imports, which have driven down prices and contributed

the country's industry. Shinya Okuda, director of the steel division at the Minpartment. A final ruling is not istry of International Trade trade representatives are enexpected until this summer. and Industry, said he expec-

Jan. 28

allay concerns in the United

All told, U.S. steel imports in December were at 2.5 million metric tons, a 31 percent decrease from 3.6 million tons in November.

Final figures for December ficials expect the preliminary figures to equal about 96 per-cent of the final numbers. Meanwhile, in a continuing

standoff with the EU, U.S. gaged in talks at the WTO on a dispute over banana imports into Europe that threatens to turn into a trans-Atlantic trade war. Washington is threatening unilateral sanctions if the import regime is not changed, but Brussels argues that the WTO has not ruled that changes made to its trade system do not comply with trade rules and accuses the United

States of bullying tactics. The WTO dispute settlement body adopted an agenda Thursday to examine the dispute, paving the way for U.S. officials to ask permission to impose threatened sanctions on a range of EU imports. The United States says the EU banana policy unfairly favors producers in former European colonies in the Caribbean at the expense of largely U.S.owned producers in Latin

(AP, AFP, Bloomberg)



#### STMicroelectronics

STMicroelectronics reports fourth quarter earnings per diluted share of USD 0.84 on net revenues of USD 1,132.7 million.

1998 CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

In millions of US dollars	Financial year ended			
(except per share data)	31/12/98	31/1 <i>2/</i> 97		
Net revenues	4,247.8	4,019.2		
Gross profit	1,624.8	1,561.8		
Total operating expenses	(1,101.4)	(1,042.0)		
Operating income	523.4	519.8		
Net interest expenses	8.7	(2.6)		
Income before income taxes and minority interests	<b>532</b> _1	517.2		
Income tax expense	(120.4)	(113.0)		
Net income before minority interests	411.7	404.2		
Minority interests	(0.6)	2.4		
Net income	411.1	406.6		
Earnings per share	USD 2.92	USD 2.92		
Earnings per share (diluted)	USD 2.89	USD 2.91		

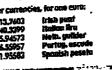
#### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (Extracts)

In millions of US dollars	31/12/98	31/12/97		
Total assets	6,434.0	5,445.7		
Shareholders' equity	4,083.3	3,307.4		

The full text of the fourth quarter and 1998 annual results' press release is available for the public at the office of Crédit Agricole Indosuez. Secrétariat Financier - Actions - 92920 Paris La Défense Cedex, FRANCE.

Fixed rates of the EMU me

or To buy one pound: b: To buy one dollar. "Per 100; H.Q.; not quoted: N.A.; not ava SDR: Special drawing rights of the IMF. Source: Bank of Tokyo-Miksabiati (Tokyo), Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); Bank France (euro); IMF (SDR) Other data from Restors.



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**CURRENCY RATES** 

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#### Very briefly:

 Brazil's high interest rates and a sharp economic downturn pushed the unemployment rate up two percentage points last year, to 7.6 percent, according to the government-run IBGE statistics institute.

· Baxter International Inc., the world's second-biggest maker of medical devices and supplies, said fourth-quarter net earnings rose 16 percent, to \$212 million, on increased sales of products to treat blood and kidney problems.

• BB&T Corp., the fourth-largest bank in North Carolina, agreed to buy Mason-Dixon Bancshares Inc., of Maryland, for \$256.9 million in stock.

• Adelphia Communications Corp., the seventh-largest "These numbers confirm the "This market is merger-driven," U.S. cable operator, is to buy FPL Group Inc.'s stake in strength of the economy, and with said Ted Theodore, director of re-Olympus Communications LP for \$257.2 million, giving Adelphia control of the Florida cable operator.

• Eli Lilly & Co., the maker of Prozac, the world's bestselling anti-depressant, said fourth-quarter profit rose 24 percent, to \$567.3 million from \$457.5 million a year earlier, as sales rose 17 percent, to \$2.64 billion. Prozac sales rose 8 percent, to \$744.5 million.

 Dow Chemical Co.'s fourth-quarter earnings fell to \$447 million before charges from \$479 million a year before amid pricing pressures on its chemical businesses.

 Lockheed Martin Corp., the second-biggest aerospace company, said fourth-quarter profit fell 15 percent, to \$308 million, as the company suffered from delayed commercial space launchings and military-aircraft deliveries. · Pitney Bowes Inc., the largest maker of postage meters, said

fourth-quarter profit climbed 16 percent, to \$162.4 million, meeting estimates, led by increased sales of office equipment and digital meters.

• Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp., the sixth-largest U.S. oil refiner, is to cut 300 jobs as its fourth-quarter earnings fell 93 percent, to \$2.6 million, because of slimmer refining Bloomberg, Reuters

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, Jan. 28

# A High as **Euro Slips**

NEW YORK - The dollar hit its highest rate so far against the euro as it also rose Thursday against most other major currencies on expectations that the U.S. economy would dominate those in Europe and Japan again this year.

"People are having a change of heart on the dollar," said Dan Scherman of MFS Asset Management in Boston. Markets had been

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

touting the "demise" of the dollar. he said, but "U.S. numbers have done nothing but diminish that thought. The economy isn't running

In 4 P.M. trading, the curo was at \$1.1416, its lowest value since the single European currency was introduced at the start of this year, down from \$1.1438 on Wednesday.

The dollar rose to 116.350 yen, also a high for the year, from 115.775 yen. New U.S. data indicating strong orders for durable goods and growth in wages reinforced investors' confidence that the economy is not losing steam, which makes any cut in interest rates less likely. The European Central Bank, by contrast, is expected to cut rates, analysts said, to prevent recovery in the euro zone from fizzling.

senior trader at Banco Atlantico. a record 2,477.34. going to widen interest-rate differentials" in the dollar's favor.

Investors bought the dollar ahead Economists have estimated that growth accelerated to an annual rate of 4.5 percent from the 3.7 percent rate in the third quarter. "I'm a longterm bull on the dollar," said Tony Norris, a director at First International Advisors Ltd. in London. "The strongest economy is the U.S."

The dollar also gained after the first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Stan-ley Fischer, said the Fund was working "intensively" with Brazil to help stabilize the economy of the largest Latin American economy.

The dollar rose to 1.4117 Swiss francs from 1.4098 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6493 from \$1.6460.

Thursday, Jan. 28

Low Latest Chge Opint

# Dollar Hits Greenspan Renews Attack on Social Security Plan funds from political pressure — direct and indirect — to allocate capital to less than the last the last to be raised or benefits cut.

WASHINGTON - The chair-

man of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, repeated Thursday his criticism of President Bill Clinton's proposal for investing Social Security funds in the stock market, sion funds that invested in stocks had saying the permanent solution to the pension fund's looming shortfall was to increase taxes or cut benefits.

Increasing our national saving is critical," the central banker testified before the Senate Budget Committee, and transferring budget surpluses major step in the right direction."

But investing any of that money in stocks "would arguably put at risk the efficiency of our capital markets and thus our economy," Mr. Greenspan said.

doubt if it would be feasible to in- to support retirees had presented sulate, over the long run, the trust policymakers with few choices.

use," he said.
Mr. Greenspan noted that studies had shown that state and local penlower average rates of return than private investments. "Similarly, there is evidence that suggests that, the greater the proportion of trustees who are political appointees, the

lower the rate of return," he said. Mr. Greenspan did not address to the Social Security trust fund "is a the current state of the U.S. economy or monetary policy in his testi-

On the politically sensitive issue of benefit cuts or tax increases, Mr. Greenspan said the demographics of having a huge baby-boom gener-Even with Herculean efforts, I ation retiring and fewer workers left

ital to less than its most productive given that the system as a whole is still significantly underfunded, Mr. Greenspan said.

Joe Lockhart, the White House press secretary, agreed on that point. We could not agree with him more on the fact that we need to do more, he said. "The president has made clear that he needs to work with Congress in order to reform. In addition to reserving the surplus and paying down the debt, we need to do more to reform the system."

Another problem is that cur-rently, Social Security tax revenue is invested in Treasury securities, and under the federal government's unified budget, that money helps pay for daily government operations. Moving a portion of that revenue into stocks would mean the govenment would have to sell them to

private buyers, which implies the government would have to pay higher interest rates, he suggested In his State of the Union message last week, Mr. Clinton urged re-

serving about 60 percent of the government's projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years, an estimated \$4.4 trillion, for shoring up the retirement benefits system.

But the Fed chairman also que tioned the wisdom of relying on projections that future surpluses would actually exist.

"While a sharp rise in the number of retirees in about 10 years seems almost a certainty, the financial and economic state of the American economy in the early years of the 21st century is not," Mr. Greenspan said. "We cannot confidently project large surpluses in our unified budget over the next 15 years."
(AP, Bloomberg)

# Stocks Rise on Strong Growth Data

NEW YORK - Stock prices rose Thursday as investors welcomed high-profile takeovers, new signs of strong economic growth and a slew of positive earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished 81.10 points higher at 9,281.33. Advancing issues led decliners by an 8-to-7 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was up 22.20 points at 1,265.37.

"This is a good time to be buying dollars," said Fernando Medina, a composite index rose 70.20 points to

the ECB expected to cut rates, that's search at Avatar Associates, "and you have this added feature of a very good earnings picture.' Ford shares rose 21/s to 62 7/16

of the report due Friday on fourth- after it said it would buy the autoquarter U.S. gross domestic product. motive operations of Volvo for \$6.45 billion But TRW Inc. slipped 1/8 to 501/4

after Lucas Varity accepted its bid for the British auto-parts company. The Internet search service Yahoo! rose 31% to 367% after it announced it was buying GeoCities. GeoCities shares soared 421/4 to

'People are still aggressive buyers of technology stocks," said Robert Streed of Northern Trust. The growth is clear, and the earnings are coming through."

Among other Internet-related stocks, America Online was up 9 at rose 1.9 percent in December, the 1741/2 after the on-line service pro- sixth rise in seven months, as de- after the chipmaker announced a 2- about 400,000 customers in the vider reported that its second- mand for industrial hardware, elec- for-1 stock split. (AP, Bloomberg) southeastern United States.

quarter earnings nearly quadrupled, tronics and electrical equipment ac-\$88 million.

"I love AOL," said Andrea Williams of Volpe Brown Whelan & Co. "They're so dominant. They're

almost untouchable." But the company suffered a setback Thursday when the Federal Communications Commission re-

#### U.S. STOCKS

fused to force cable-TV companies to sell their new high-speed Internet hook-ups to competing Internet

While investors have flocked to Internet stocks, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, urged caution. In an appearance before the Senate Budget Committee, the central banker said prices of such shares were going up under a "lottery principle."

"The size of that potential market is so huge that you have these pic-inthe sky type of potentials for a lot of different vehicles," Mr. Greenspan said, adding, "Undoubtedly, some of these small companies whose stock prices are going through the roof will succeed. And they very well may justify even higher prices. The vast majority are almost sure to

Investors took heart from two economic reports showing strong growth but no immediate signs of overheating.

Factory orders for durable goods

celerated. For all of last year, orders rose 3.5 percent after increasing 7.1 percent during 1997, the Commerce In Southeast Department said, the smallest annual gain since 1991, when the economy was emerging from re-

cession. "The worst for our exporters is over," said a former Federal Reserve governor, Lyle Gramley, adding, "Manufacturing productiv-

ity continues to be very robust." The Labor Department reported that Americans' wages and benefits rose last year by 3.4 percent, the fastest rate in five years and a slight improvement over 1997. But wages and benefits did cool in the fourth quarter, good news for investors who are worried that wage pressures could prove inflationary and prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest

The data spurred bonds, with the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond falling to 5.10 percent from 5.13 percent on Wed-

Strong earnings reports drove other stocks. Eli Lilly shares gained 1 7/16 at 91 3/16 after the drugmaker announced strong earnings and authorized a \$1 billion stock-repurchase

BankAmerica rose 214 to 64% after the chairman of the largest U.S. bank predicted that net income would rise 25 percent this year.

# **Charter Gains** Cable Systems

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee Charter Communications Inc., one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States, is on the move again.
The company, owned by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft Corp., will gain cable systems serving about 260,000 customers in a complicated \$2.4 billion deal with Nashvillebased InterMedia Partners and Tele-

Communications Inc. TCI and Charter will acquire systems that InterMedia Partners now uses to serve about 700,000 customers in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee

TCI, which is being acquired by AT&T Corp., will give up its 4 percent stake in InterMedia in exchange for InterMedia's 300,000 customers in the Nashville area and Charter's systems in several Indiana communities, as well as systems in Shelbyville, Kentucky, Logan, Utah and Militown, Montana.

TCI's president, Leo Hindery, said InterMedia's rebuilt cable systems should help TCI provide the advanced services that will be offered

after the merger with AT&T. Charter will pay InterMedia an unspecified amount of cash and will give it systems serving 140,000 customers in Indiana, Kentucky, Utah Intel shares rose 47/16 to 1373/16 and Montana. Charter will take over

#### INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

### Most Active 9203.57 9300.64 9703.57 9281.33 +81.16 AmOnims s 3009.60 3113.75 3299.52 3078.33 -18.77 Company 300.66 304.33 301.90 303.19 -46.07 Ventor 244 55% 50% 51% 33% 53% 40% 40% 45% 45% 46% 46% 17% 18% 20% 21% 86% 95% 40% 42% 17% 13% 17% 13% 53% 56% 514h 34h 474h 484h 194a 194a 1154a Disney a Betiso s Chignp Philipp Cestioni AT&T Ford a Lucani s IBM NYSE Lee Lest 135 1374 899a 949a 899a 949a 174 1644 1688a 174 1644 1688a 1740 179a 179a 179a 179a 279a Nasdag **AMEX** 125ha126 hr. 440 5 470 444 a 704 370 154 144 154 124 1344 124 1344 354 1344 354 NYSE 1074 1074 1955 1958 1968 477 1988 1604 1446 4575 67 Market Sales **AMEX** Company Ashicad Inc Assoc Banc Cor, Ball Corp Costle, AM. Chicago Tilla Ciccorp Inc Cornestone Prop Dute Reality Eaton Corp Farmers Cop Bit Harlesvelle Swax 275 2-24 255 25-15 155 24-1 2-25 2-25-1 2-.065 .18 .15 .165 .15 .30 .20

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525.0 5802 524.5 + 14.2

526.5 511.5 527.7 + 14.1

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95.03 \$5.04 mach. 18.129
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95.06 \$5.06 -0.02 1,506
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See our

**Gold Fixings** 

U.S. dollar Source: Ro

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**HOTELS:** Battle in Bangkok Continued from Page 11

manned by white-uniformed sailors. But the Peninsula's pier on the far side, wedged between its two riva

tention. Shortly after the Peninsula secured the pier across the river, the hotel's resident manager, Peter Schori, said, Mr. Chapman of the Shangri-La telephoned to warn that the Peninsula's pier access could be restricted because the Shangri-La had con-

structed the road's entrance.
"We were very worried," Mr. Schori said, that the Peninsula would not be able to use the pier, "until our lawyers determined the road was now a public right-of-way."

Mr. Chapman also led a team from the Shangri-La offering compensation to River Garden Apartment, the owner of the pier, for breaking the Peninsula's newly signed lease, according to Aree Tangtrongchitr, manager and owner of River Garden Apartment and the pier.

Mr. Chapman, however, said he learned of the Peninsula's,

plans only while trying to rent the pier's commercial space; which sits opposite his hotel's main entrance. He said he did not recall the phone conversation with Mr. Schori. On the issue of neighborly cooperation, Mr. Waldvogel of the Peninsula complained that Mr. Wachtveitl had regularly

turned his nose up at mutually beneficial marketing ven-'He rejected a shared boat service, a dine-around option for guests and even refuses landing rights for my boats to drop off his own guests after they eat dinner here." Mr. Waldvogel

"We have the same class of client. He is very shortsighted." Mr. Wachtveitl replied that after three decades of running

the Oriental for the elite, he would not permit a waterborne invasion of the hoi polloi. Mr. Waldvogel, he sniffed, is "simply frustrated at being on the wrong side of the river."

INTEREST RATES 3-ments 5.50 2.90 2.97 2.32 0.285 2.90 2.84 2.56 2.85 5-year 4.33 3.178 3.11 3.272 1.245 3.322 10-year 4.66 109-22 70-year 4.13 3.73 3.638 3.884 1.95 3.873 30-year 5.10 102-05 2-year 4.83 2.925 2.841 2.969 0.58 2.881 5-year 4.55 98-22 2.87 2.88 2.38 0.285 2.90 3-menth 4,47 4,37 <del>2 you</del> 4.56 99-27 **Money Market Rates** Teday 414 74 49% 487 4.65 6.00 63/4 57/4 57/4 57/4 0.50 0.24 0.60 0.65 0.67 0.50 0.25 0.60 0.65 0.67 6- 12-month month 4,9698 5,0428 3,0138 2,9619 5,0294 5,5153 Euro zone Mealin month month 4.7388 4.9697 4.9698 2.1161 3.0744 3.0136 5.985 5.815 5.6294 0.3978 0.4738 0.4738 1.1979 1.2802 1.3675 3,06 3,13 3,12 3,08 3,02 2,98 3.00 3.22 3.13 3.08 3.02 2.98 Forward Rates

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#### EUROPE

# TRW Prevails in the Bidding for Lucas Varity

CLEVELAND - TRW Inc. outbid another American company Thursday to acquire the top British auto-parts maker, Lucas Varity PLC, in an all-cash \$6.6 billion deal, the companies announced Thurs-

Federal-Mogul Corp. opened the dding war for Lucas Varity by offering 280 pence (\$4.60) a share in cash and stock Monday, a 36 percent premium over the closing share

TRW said its offer of 288 pence a share represented the largest cash deal yet in the auto-parts industry. Lucas Varity closed Thursday at 290 pence, up 6.

Federal-Mogul said it would study the bid before deciding wheth-

fee if it breaks the accord.

Lucas Varity is the second-largest maker of brakes, after Robert Bosch GmbH of Germany. Clevelandbased TRW is the top American maker of vehicle-passenger airbags. TRW said the deal would lead to savings of \$200 million annually within two years. The combined company would have annual rev-

enue of nearly \$19 billion. TRW wants to strengthen its auto business; which provides 60 percent of its revenue, analysts say, before selling or spinning it off to better focus on its faster-growing space,

said Jacques-Antoine Bretteil of International Capital Gestion in Paris. "Car-parts suppliers must join up even more rapidly than the carmakers." The auto-parts industry is consolidating as companies try to expand internationally and supply entire parts systems rather than in-

dividual parts.

Carmakers are consolidating globally, forcing suppliers of components to do the same.

In addition to Daimler-Benz AG's takeover of Chrysler Corp. last year, Ford Motor Co. agreed

which was accepted by the boards of both companies, calls for Lucas-Varity to pay TRW a \$49.8 million

Andrew Casey of Midwest Remained to Thursday to buy Volvo AB's car unit. Victor Rice, chief executive should be very beneficial to TRW officer of Lucas Varity, is to be on both an earnings basis and as a named vice charman of TRW and the companies of the compa catalyst for automotive growth." to direct the combined automotive
The offer is "very favorable." operations of the company.

He said, "The benefits of the two companies' complementary products and services are reflected in the full and fair price we have received for Lucas Varity." Joseph Gorman, TRW's chairman and chief executive officer.

called the deal "a great fit."
"Specifically," he said, "it enables the integration of TRW's steering and suspension business with Lucas Varity's braking business into the next generation of vehicle control systems

voted 450 to 390 late Wednesday to

reject developing an electronic trad-ing platform with Eurex, a German-

Swiss futures exchange. The system would have enabled traders to view

information on CBOT's Treasury

contracts and Eurex futures on a

Eurex may have to consider an

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93.00 88.50 123.00 297.50 5.10 860.00 51.00 60.80 7.50

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# Alcatel Net Rises, but Stock Falls

PARIS - Alcatel SA reported Thursday that its net income last year rose to 2.3 billion euros (\$2.6 billion) from 700 million euros in 1997, but most of the increase was the result of asset sales, and shares of the French telecommunications equipment maker fell 3.5 percent.

Operating income rose 10.2 percent, to I billion euros, well below analysts' predictions of at least 2.4 billion euros and less than the target set by the company a year ago.
Sales increased 6 percent, to 21.3

billion euros, with 53 percent of revenue coming from North America and only 7 percent from Europe.
Alcatel's shares finished at 98.50

euros, down 3.60. The company's chief executive, Serge Tchuruk, projected growth in sales and operating income in 1999

despite the uncertain global economic outlook, particularly for Asia and Latin America. But Bernard Lechat, chief analyst at the Wargny brokerage, said the

#### company was "in the middle of nowhere, businesswise." ■ Rhone-Poulenc Posts Profit

The French pharmaceutical concern Rhone-Poulenc SA announced cent over the next three years.

Net income was 4.22 billion in 1997. Operating profit rose 24



#### Very briefly:

 German car production rose to 409,343 units in December. up 27 percent from a year earlier, as the country's carmakers benefited from strong overseas sales and demand for new models at home.

 The Netherlands' gross domestic product expanded 0.4 percent in the third quarter from the second and 3.2 percent from a year earlier as consumer spending offset a slowing of export growth.

 Poland will invite bids for a 49 percent stake in Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT SA, the state-owned airline, by the middle of the year after delaying the planned sale over the past three years amid concerns about an adviser's fee.

 The Czech National Bank cut its key interest rate by threequarters of a percentage point, in line with expectations, to 8 percent. It was the ninth cut in seven months as the government has tried to help the struggling economy. Bloomberg

# **Hurt Ericsson**

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispuring

STOCKHOLM — Ericsson AB reported Thursday that fourth-quarter net profit fell 3 percent on lower prices for its mobile phones.

The company, the third-largest maker of cell phones, said it earned 4.75 billion kronor (\$616.1 million), compared with 4.88 billion kronor a year earlier. Revenue from its mobile phones and terminals division fell 3 percent in the quarter as phone prices fell 30 percent. But the company said. Italiana is the only exchange init had kept its share of the expanding volved that is not yet in an alliance. cellular-phone market by increasing sales volume about 50 percent.

Ericsson's result for the first half 1999 is expected to be lower than in the first half 1998," the chief executive, Sven-Christer Nilsson, (Bloomberg, Reuters)

### Cheap Phones Paris and Zurich Bourses Forge Link The Associated Press

PARIS — The Paris and Zurich companies should have access to the stock exchanges unveiled a crossmembership alliance Thursday that as the foundation of a pan-European seemed aimed at giving the Paris bourse. Bourse more leverage in talks with seven other European exchanges over what a European bourse should

Seven of the eight exchanges involved in pan-European bourse talks are now aligned in three blocs: London-Frankfurt-Madrid; Amsterdam-Brussels, and Paris-Zurich. Borsa

Paris began seeking a partner after London's stock exchange and Deutsche Boerse in Frankfurt announced plans for a common trading platform last July. Presenting the deal, the president

of the Paris Bourse, Jean-Francois

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said medium-sized electronic platform that would serve

Frankfurt and London want to grant access only to blue-chip companies. Under the new agreement, mem-

bers of the Swiss Exchange are to become members of the Paris Bourse, and vice versa, by the end of the first quarter.

#### ■ Eurex Loses a Suitor

Eurex, the largest derivatives exseek a new partner after the Chicago proposed alliance, Bloomberg News reported from London, quoting clients of the exchange.

Joerg Franke, chief executive of francs (\$737 million) last year, re-

### **WORLD STOCK MARKETS**

Thursday, Jan. 28 n euros for EMU countries.

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Board of Trade voted to scrap a trading derivatives. Members of the CBOT, the

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accord or merger with a rival such as the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange or the Matif futures exchange of a return to profit for 1998, Reuters France to satisfy its goal of making reported. The company also forecast change in Europe, may be forced to the Frankfurt-based exchange the annual earnings growth of 15 perworld's largest marketplace for

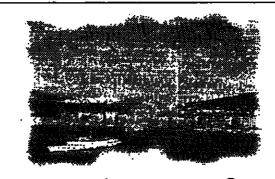
Eurex, said that it had no firm plans versing a loss of 4.99 billion francs to merge or form links with any other exchange.

# percent, to 11.42 billion francs.

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15, Lintheschergasse - 8001 Zurich - Tel. 411/215 o0 70 - Fax 411/215 o0 98 CIBC Sonzerland is a member of CIBC Group, one of the largest banks in North America

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#### Verv briefly:

- Central Investment Holding Co., a business arm of Taiwan's governing Nationalist Party, led a group of companies that bought a 22.5 percent stake in Pan Asia Bank for 2.65 billion Taiwan dollars (\$82 million), bringing one of Taiwan's weakest banks under de facto government control.
- Philippine Airlines Inc., trying to prevent the confiscation of its aircraft, plans to pay \$38 million to creditors who helped finance its fleet.
- Southeast Asia's tourism industry has cut 2 million workers as recession in the region has hurt travel, figures from the
- World Travel and Tourism Council showed. • Japanese auto production fell 8.4 percent in December from a year earlier, closing the industry's worst year in decades as
- domestic sales plummeted and exports within Asia plunged. • Toshiba Corp. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. will join forces to try to cope with global competition in developing and producing large-capacity motors for industrial use.
- · Hong Kong's deficit in visible trade, which excludes intangibles such as services, narrowed in 1998 to 81.44 billion dollars (\$10.51 billion) from 159.14 billion dollars in 1997.
- Singapore's industrial output posted its first rise in eight months in December, gaining 2.7 percent over the previous year, as a surge in chemical production offset a drop in Bloomberg. Reuters, AFP

# Kim Vows to End All Investment Red Tape

By Don Kirk mal Herald Tribune

SEOUL - President Kim Dae Jung, hoping to persuade foreign companies to invest \$15 billion in South Korea this year, promised Thursday to cut all regulations hindering foreign investment by the end of the year.

Mr. Kim made the pledge before several hundred foreign business people, diplomats and journalists at a luncheon celebrating what he and his about during his presidency. aides clearly viewed as South Korea's triumph over the worst of the economic crisis that almost bankrupted the country in late 1997.

Since his inauguration as president last February, he said, he had

"11,000 regulations" that made life difficult for foreign companies operating in South Korea.

"This year we will make sure the regulations are all abolished," he

Mr. Kim's remarks — and the atmosphere of the lavish luncheon in the Blue House, the center of presidential power here — underlined the shift in outlook toward foreign interests that he has sought to bring

"Koreans in the past have had a very negative attitude toward for- fidence while the country coped eign investment," Mr. Kim said.
"That is because we are a homogenous nation."

He maintained, however, that his

cut by half what he said were government had managed "to convince Korean people" of the need to view foreign business positively. Foreign direct investment rose 27 percent in 1998, to \$8.85 billion.

'The dominant part of the Korean people welcome foreign invest-ment," Mr. Kim said. "Please come in. We want to make an environment most favorable to foreign capital."

Mr. Kim held luncheon amid increasing signs here that the economy has rebounded. Some of the business people at the luncheon warned, however, of the danger of overconwith rising unemployment and the nearly 2,000 to the dollar 13 months reluctance of the country's massive ago but has been gaining value ever conglomerates, or chaebol, to restructure or downsize significantly. York at 1,175.70 to the dollar.

"We have the risk of declaring success prematurely," said James Rooney, president of Ssangyong Templeton Investment Manage ment Co. "Korea's credibility rests on recognizing the huge restructuring task that lies ahead.

At the same time, Mr. Rooney said, "There's no clear focus on delivering growth or shareholder profit."

The greatest single concern, Mr. Rooney said, is that "we will lose competitiveness by premature strengthening" of the won. The South Korean currency sank to



since; it traded Thursday in New Kim Dae Jung, who tells foreign investors, "Please come in."

# Fuji Bank to Absorb Ailing Yasuda Trust

TOKYO - Fuji Bank Ltd. said Thursday that it would turn Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. into a subsidiary by buying 300 billion yen (\$2.59 bil-lion) of Yasuda's common and preferred shares.

The purchase, which will take place the end of March, will raise Fuji Bank's stake in Yasuda Trust to more than 50 percent from 16.8 percent. When the two banks are combined,

they will be Japan's second-largest banking concern, with 62.579 trillion yen in assets and 365 branches. The long-anticipated move comes as

major trust banks are cutting costs and revamping businesses under government pressure to improve profits in return for public aid.

The two banks said the takeover would reduce costs and bolster annual profit by an estimated 30 billion yen starting in four years. The banks will share computer centers, software development costs and other back-office expenses, they said.

Yasuda, which is heavily burdened by nonperforming loans, is a member of the Fuyo corporate group.

"Fuji Bank is the core bank of the Fuyo group," said Nozomu Kunishige of Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, "and in

order to maintain the group and the bank's credibility, Fuji Bank is not allowed to let troubled Yasuda Trust go

bankrupt."
Mr. Kunishige said Yasuda had bowed to the inevitable takeover after the Financial Reconstruction Commission, a new bank reform authority, warned that banks that had not restructured their operations would be closed.

'It is good for Yasuda Trust," said Katsubito Sasajima of Warburg Dillon Read, "as it means Fuji will take care of it from now on However, I doubt whether this is good for Fuji."

After Fuji Bank's announcement, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said it may raise Yasuda's credit rating, now at

With the extra capital from Fuji Bank, Yasuda Trust said it would no longer need to apply for government funds in the year that ends in March. Yasuda Trust, along with 14 other major Japanese lenders, said last year that it would ask for money from a 25 trillion yen bank bailout fund to replenish capital

after writing off bad loans. Fuji Bank and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. said in November that they would merge their trust banking subsidiaries April 1. The two banks also agreed to buy three Yasuda Trust businesses, in-

cluding its pension fund management and its securities custodian service.

Financial sources said Japan's Financial Supervisory Agency had pressed Fuji Bank to make Yasuda Trust a sub-sidiary to help Yasuda obtain public funds in order to recapitalize. A Fuji Bank spokesman said the bank might ask for more government aid than the 700 billion yen it indicated it would seek

in November. Fuji Bank finished 7 yen lower at 486, while Yasuda Trust dropped 1 to 92. The purchase was announced after the Japenese stock market closed.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP) ■ Japan Output Rise Called a Blip

Japan's industrial production rose unexpectedly in December, but this appeared to be a blip, as output for all of 1998 posted its worst drop in 23 years, government data showed Thursday, Reuters reported.

Output rose 1.3 percent in December from November, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said, well above the ministry's prediction of 0.3 percent. But analysts said the improvement was largely a result of publicworks spending, not private demand, and the ministry acknowledged that the data had not shown any recovery trend.

# In Japan, GMAC Seeks Property-Backed Loans

TOKYO — General Motors Acceptance Corp., a fi-nancial-services unit of the world's largest automaker, has budgeted \$1 billion to buy Japanese bad loans backed by property, a lawyer for GMAC in Tokyo said Thursday. It would be the company's first venture into real-estate investment in Japan, said the lawyer, Koichi Nakata, who last week accompanied GMAC officials to meet representatives of banks and casualty insurers.

"We'll be talking to some companies about specifics ahead of March 31, the end of the business year," Mr. Nakata said.

The move puts GMAC alongside Credit Suisse First Boston and other U.S. and European investors who are using Japan's financial crisis as an opportunity to shop for real-estate-backed loans at bargain prices. Japanese banks

are saddled with trillions of yen in unrecoverable loans that they need to get off their books as soon as possible. U.S. investors spent about \$6 billion last year on bad loans backed by property in Japan, according to an estimate by Ernst & Young Kenneth Leventhal's Asia real-estate group.

Those loans were bought for as little as 10 percent of book value, the company said.

Japanese banks are particularly anxious to purge their books of bad loans now, since the government took over Nippon Credit Bank Ltd., saying the bank had more losses than it could cover with capital.

GMAC will develop and manage the property it buys rather than resell it for a fast profit, Mr. Nakata said. It may later invest in other types of property, he said.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS January 28, 1999 **Advertisement** To receive free daily quotations for your Katy Houri: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or o-mail: JHT/FUN 96.56 195.84 719.65 11.54 12.01 11.55 10.99 9.37 10.62 10.31 11,221 11,126 11,245 109,71 109,72 109,69 6,52 6,49 6,48 22 PERRIER LULLER GA FL Trust Asia FL Trust Selburkovi ## CHIPTRUST

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#### INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

# On-Line Stock Trading Soars to a Record — but So Do Complaints

By Stephen Labaton New York Tunes Service

WASHINGTON - One of the millions of small investors who recently flocked to cyberspace placed an order through his on-line brokerage account for a hot new Internet stock, beglobe.com Inc., thinking it yould cost between \$15 and \$25 a share. His order was filled for 2,300 shares, at a price of \$90 a share and a total bill of \$207,000, nearly \$150,000 more than he had expected.

Another investor placed an order on his personal computer to sell 30 shares of a different company, never got an electronic confirmation and so placed the sell order again, winding up selling 60 shares, twice the number of shares he owned.

perty-Benchallan A third investor tried to cancel an order to buy 45 shares of a stock and received an acknowledgment that his cancellation order had been received. But the sale went through nonetheless, and the investor wound up purchasing the

The three investors are among hunof dreds who have recently complained to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which reported Wednesday that the record amount of on-line trading now 25 percent of all retail stock trading in the United States and growing quickly - had also brought a record number of complaints.

As of Sept. 30, the number of complaints had quadrupled from the previous year, to 1,114.

In recent weeks, with new issues of highly volatile Internet and technology stocks coming to market weekly at prices that are seducing new investors into trying to get rich quick, officials through better education and investors report that complaints are coming in faster than they can be processed.

Arthur Levitt, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, cautioned small investors who have swarmed to trade on the Internet to pproach on-line investing with care, to keep fundamentals of investing in mind and to place limits on the prices of buy and sell orders to avoid the kinds of problems that are plaguing the emerging creasing the speed of trading and mak-

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The state of the s

Arthur Levitt, the SEC chairman, says small investors should take care when investing on-line.

group of small traders. "Investors need to remember the investment basics and not allow the ease and speed with which they trade to bull them either into a false sense of security or encourage them to trade too quickly or too often," Mr. Levitt said. "Some of the issues raised specifically relate to on-line trading; others are generic to all investing. The majority of them can be addressed

'New opportunities present all of us with new responsibilities. challenges and risks.'

ensuring that they have done their homework."

By the end of this year, about 10 million brokerage accounts are expected to be able to trade electronically, nearly twice as many as are now trading on the World Wide Web.

The stunning growth of on-line trading has already transformed Wall Street, sharply reducing commission costs, ining stock trading more accessible than ever before.

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But the explosion of on-line trading has prompted a certain complacency that can be dan-

The flood of complaints to both securities firms and regulatory agencies comes in large part from investors who mistakenly thought that their ability to trade almost instantancously through their personal computers had put them on an equal footing with seasoned traders on Wall Street.

Yet in part the problems being encountered demonstrate that technological advances in personal computers and the in-ternet lagged behind the advances that had been made at the stock exchanges.

For example, the stock price that consumers see on their screens may bear no resemblance to the actual current price at the exchange, particularly when the stock is volatile or when trading volume is particularly

heavy. Those lags have become common with hot new public offerings of technology stocks, whose prices seem to have moved with the speed of light. Mr. Levitt said in an interview Wednesday that some of the problems were rooted in misunderstandings about the

new technology. He said other problems could be attributed to neophyte traders themselves, many of whom probably lack an understanding of the risks associated with such high-flying issues.
While the more than 100 brokerage companies now on the Internet have different approaches to resolving cus-

tomer complaints, the wave of filings at the regulatory agencies demonstrates that in many cases the companies are not reimbursing their customers. Instead, to reduce the problems and try to insulate themselves from possible

liability, many companies are posting warning statements about trading problems caused by volatility and high volume on their Web sites. Those statements were posted even before the National Association of Securities Dealers issued a notice Tuesday recommending that the firms begin to take steps to educate investors about delays and other

possible problems. Mr. Levitt warned comings if not used properly, small investors that because the prices "Millions of new investors have they see on their computer screens may not necessarily reflect current prices, they should consider the advantages of placing orders that limit the price at

which a trade can be executed. Mr. Levitt also cautioned investors not to forsake basic principles of investing and understand that, as much as the new technology has provided important benefits, it can have its short-

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taken advantage of the unprecedented access and individual control the Internet provides," he said.

"But new opportunities present all of us with new responsibilities, challenges

Nancy Smith, director of investor education at the Securities and Exchange Commission, said that the most common complaints involved investors

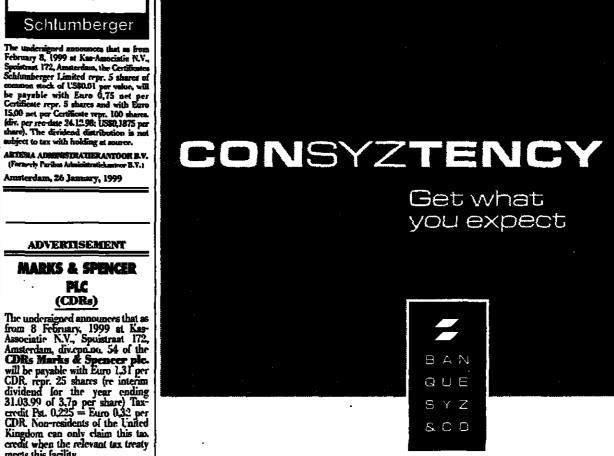
who had bought securities at prices significantly higher than the prices posted on their screens.

Other complaints, she said, reflected the fact that investors had moved with a few clicks of the personal computer's mouse into securities that, upon reflection, should never have been purchased. and still others were from consumers who thought they had canceled their purchases, only to learn that their orders had not actually been canceled.



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# WORLD ROUNDUP From Forlorn to Glittering: A Game's Drive to Glory

# Pakistan in a Spin

CRICKET Anil Kumble, an Indian spin bowler, took six wickets Thursday as Pakistan was all out for 238 in Madras on the opening day of the first test against India.

Kumble, who finished with six for 70, and Javagal Srinath, a medium-pace bowler who took three for 63, made full use of the hard. bouncy pitch.

At the close, India had reached 48 without loss in its first innings. Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, was found guilty Thursday of improper conduct and given a six-match ban, suspended for 12 months, and fined 75 percent of his match fee by an International Cricket Council disciplinary panel. Ranatunga led his team off the field when Muttiah Muralitharan, a Sri Lankan spin bowler, was no-balled in a one-day match Saturday in Adelaide, Australia.

#### Russians Take Control

SKATING Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov kept Russia on track for its third consecutive sweep of European Figure Skating Championship titles by taking the original dance section of the ice dance competition Thursday.

Krylova and Ovsiannikov gave a fast-flowing presentation to music from "La Traviata." Marina An-issina and Gwendal Peizerat of France were second.

Russia claimed the first title of the championships Wednesday night when Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov won the pairs competition.

Russians held the first three places in the women's competition going into the short program Fri-

#### Milwaukee Signs Abbott

BASEBALL The Milwaukee Brewers and the St. Louis Cardinals dipped into the cheaper end of the free-agent pool.

The Brewers signed Jim Abbott to a \$600,000, one-year contract. The one-handed pitcher will have to bat for the first time since high

The Cardinals signed Carlos Baerga, an infielder whose career slumped in the last three years, to a \$1.25 million, one-year deal. (AP)

#### Bordeaux Buys and Sells

SOCCER Bordeaux of the French first division bought one striker Thursday and was poised to sell another. It acquired Ivan Perez from Real Betis of Seville for an undisclosed fee. He signed a fourand-a-half year contract. Perez. who plays under the name of Ivan,

turns 23 Friday. Arsenal of the English Premier League said it expects to complete the signing of Kaba Diawara, a French under-21 player, from Bordeaux by the weekend for a reported £3 million (\$4.95 million).

 John Harkes returned to England on Thursday, where the former U.S. captain joined Nottingham Forest. Harkes, who plays for D.C. United in the United States, will stay with Forest at least until the end of March. (AFP, Reuters)

#### Duke Beats Tar Heels

BASKETBALL William Avery scored 21 points as Duke, ranked No. 2 among U.S. colleges, bear North Carolina, ranked No. 10, 89-77. Wednesday night.

By Leonard Shapiro Washington Post Service

■ IAMI — The last Super Bowl of the XXth century is Sunday. Land many of the people who either witnessed or helped plan the first one 32 years ago readily admit they did not foresee the gargantuan impact the National Football League's championship game has had on the sport or, for that matter, on the world of sports.

"I look around, and it still amazes me." said Don Weiss, who was director of communications for the NFL in 1967 when teams from his league and the upstart American Football League played for the first time.

The excitement and buzz before Sunday's game between the Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons is very different from the somewhat forlorn atmosphere surrounding the first game, at the Los Angeles Coliseum between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. That was the only Super Bowl that was not sold out, with close to 32,000 seats staying empty at the 93,000-seat Coliseum. Planning for the contest didn't even start until two months before the opening kickoff, while details of the merger between the two leagues were still being ironed out in Washington.

Weiss recalled that no more than 10 people from the league, including sev-

ducing that first Super Bowl. Now re-tired, Weiss is involved as a part-timer among a staff of more than 200 working on the game here this week.

"We didn't get the go-ahead until October," Weiss said. "We hadn't even picked the site, and we didn't know who was going to televise it. There was still a local blackout rule in effect, and the media in Los Angeles kept writing that



it was going to be lifted, and it really hurt ticket sales. In fact, the first five Super Bowls were blacked out locally and shown on tape delay at midnight." Tickets in 1967 were priced between \$6 and \$12 each, compared with \$325 for the game Sunday, which was sold

out months in advance. In 1967, a one-minute advertisement on U.S. television cost \$80,000 in a game aired by both CBS, the NFL rights holder, and NBC, the AFL's network.

game in the United States, will get \$1.6. million for each 30-second advertisement and long ago sold out its \$93 million inventory. It will earn a further \$45 million from an unprecedented seven-hour pregame show, NBC used four cameras that first year, Fox will have a record 31 on Sunday.

There were no hospitality tents for the first game. This week, there will be 35 tents outside Pro Player Stadium, with some companies spending as much as \$5 million to party and 200 corporations claiming some link to the game.

In 1967, the NFL issued 338 media credentials - 600 if you counted TV technical support. This year, more than 3,000 have been given out. The telecast will be carried in more than 100 countries, with Fox expecting 135 million U.S. viewers and a worldwide audience of more than 800 million.

HE NAME Super Bowl wasn't attached to the game until its third year, accompanied by the famously fulfilled Joe Namath guarantee that his New York Jets would beat the Baltimore Colts. The daughter of the Kansas City owner, Lamar Hunt, was playing with what was then called a "super ball." and the story goes that Hunt persuaded his fellow owners to rename their game, previously referred

eral outside consultants, worked on pro- This year, Fox, which is showing the to as the NFL-AFL Championship, with a slight variation from the name of that bouncing ball.

According to Weiss, Pete Rozelle, the NFL commissioner at the time, wasn't wild about the use of "super" because he considered it a cliche. But both networks had used "Super Sunday" in their promotion of the first two games. and Rozelle went along.
Rozelle also wanted an extra week

between the conference championships games and this finale to help build public interest.

h was as calculated a decision as was ever made by the league," said Tex Schramm, the former president of the Dallas Cowboys. "The idea was to give the game time to build. That allowed us time to get the teams in early, to make them available, to make sure the media got everything it needed to tell the world about our game.

The Namath game clearly had a huge impact. A year later, Weiss said Rozelle knew the league was on to something special when he was able to announce at a news conference the day after Super Bowl IV between Minnesota and Kan-sas City that the ratings had surpassed those of the first walk on the moon by the astronaut Neil Armstrong the previous summer.

In the years since, eight of the 15 all-time top-rated U.S. TV programs have

been Super Bowls, led by Game XVI between San Francisco and Cincinnati with a 49.1 rating. Nine of the 10 most watched sports programs of all the ception is the Tonya Harding-Nancy. Kerrigan skating soap opera in the 1994 Winter Olympics, in third place.

NE FACET that has never changed has been the pressure to win. Lee Remmel, now the Green Bay Packers' public-relations director, was a reporter covering the first Super Bowl for the Green Bay Press Gazette. He recalled that the Packers' coach. Vince Lombardi, was particularly on edge before his team bear Kansas City in the first title game.

"I remember wide receiver Max McGee telling me it was the most uptight he'd ever seen Lombardi," Remmel said "All the owners had been telling him that he couldn't lose the same because he couldn't lose the game because it would damage the prestige of the old established league if he lost to the upstart league. That really bothered him.

After they won, the media ker goading him to compare the Chiefs to other teams in the league. Finally he said, 'Dammit, there are probably four or five teams in our league better then the Chiefs. Now are you satisfied?' That got a lot of coverage, and it helped get the interest up for the next year, too."

# Sharpe Decides The Super Bowl Is Not the Place To Mince Words

By Michael Wilbon Washington Post Service

MIAMI --- The question put to Shannon Sharpe was when, exactly, did be begin to run his mouth like this.

'I was always a talker," he said. "You just don't wake up one morning and say, 'I think I want to talk a little more.' Some are better at it than oth-

Sharpe, the Denver Broncos' all-pro tight end, may one day be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But he's already in the Talkers Hall of Fame, a unanimous first-ballot selection.

"I was a talker back in elementary school. I used to get A's and B's in everything, but I got an F in conduct. I had a speech class in elementary school. And you know how teachers, when a kid is struggling to pronounce a word, used to lead him and say, Johnny, sounds like ... ? Johnny, sounds like ... ?

"I said out loud, 'Sounds like Johnny can't read.' Teacher told me to leave the

room." The Miami Dolphins recently have replaced "Johnny" on the wrong end of Sharpe's razor-sharp tongue, ever since the Broncos laid a 38-3 whipping on Miami in a playoff game. Sharpe said before the game that the Broncos were 10 to 14 points better than the Dolphins, and that come the final week of January, "The Dolphins will be kicked out of their own home and Mike Shanahan will

be in Jimmy Johnson's office." When Sharpe said he regretted calling Dan Marino a "loser" after that game, it provided a questioner with the chance to ask if there were any other boundaries Sharpe had, places he

simply wouldn't go, "I don't talk mothers, wives or girlfriends," he said, "I won't do that. Now, if you have a deformity, I will talk

Sharpe on the sliding Dallas Cow-



Shannon Sharpe enjoying himself in an interview before the Super Bowl.

Team to America's Most Wanted Team. The current champion is America's Team. We're the champ. We went 14-2. When Secretariat was 21 lengths in front, nobody went to the window and said. I'm putting \$2 on the secondplace horse."

Sharpe on why he didn't root for the Falcons even though he grew up close to Atlanta: "What did I think of the Falcons? If you had a pair of cleats, they'd put you in the game. For \$20 you could

sit in the luxury box with the owner." Sharpe on the reception he gets on the road: "Most fans outside Denver don't like me, and for good reason. I give them every reason not to like me.

Sharpe on the fact that his offensive linemen don't like it when he makes comments that fire up opposing defenders: "Our offensive line coach fines me every time I say something to the op-

boys: "They've gone from America's posing defensive line. But the D-linemen can t get to me. I m linea u keep moving out wider until they really can't get me, then I laugh at them."

The Miami Herald reached Sharpe's 76-year-old grandmother, Mary Porter, the woman who raised him. "Unless he was sleeping," she said, "he was always running his mouth about something. He likes to act up. He gets a kick out of talking."

Last year at the Super Bowl, Sharpe said, "If the Packers try to cover me one-on-one and beat my butt, then I will renounce my citizenship, move out of the country and leave all of my assets to your account.'

Sharpe caught a team-high five passes, Denver won its first Super Bowl, and Sharpe said afterward: "People bet the farm that Green Bay would beat us by 12, and you know what? They're

# The Shanahan Goal: **Perfection Every Play**

Coach Is a Genius at the Game, Broncos Say

By Charlie Nobles

MIAMI - Terrell Davis is splendid, John Elway is like fine wine and Bill Romanowski leads a ferocious defense. But with the Denver Broncos, they are chess pieces in Coach Mike Shanahan's head, to be artfully used on game day.

Much of the Broncos' success since 1995 can be traced to the hiring of Shanahan, who seems to be an all-inone boss. He is a distinguished offensive mind, but he also oversees the team's defense, drafts players, makes trades and negotiates contracts.

All with one pursuit in mind - per-

'We're not late for meetings, we're not late for lifting weights, we practice plays until we get them right," said Tony Jones, an offensive tackle. "Everything has to be dead on schedule or

Mike lets as know about it.' Pat Bowlen, the team owner, loves the mind-set that Shanahan has created with his players. As the Broncos' owner tells it, one of the team's charter flights earlier this season was a minute late

departing.

This is a man who has been known to script his family's vacations down to the minute of each day. While an assistant coach at the University of Florida in the early 1980s, he would insist that his quarterbacks redraw a diagram whenever they had the line of scrimmage

He is never without felt-tipped pens, better to scheme up another play or think of another slogan to post in the

locker room. "I call him the Mastermind," said John Mobley, a Denver linebacker. "He always seems two or three steps ahead of everybody else."

Steve Atwater, the veteran safety, said the label "genius" fits Shanahan.
"The longer I'm around him, the more I realize he's a guy who knows football inside and out," Atwater said.

The Associated Press

NHL ROUNDUP

puck in Florida's 2-1 victory Wednes-day night. "First of all, I'm really happy

in four games since joining the Panthers

on Jan. 17, also hit the crossbar and failed to score on a breakaway. Florida is 3-0-1

Bure, who has six goals and one assist

The game-winner came after a

'If there's a situation, no matter what is, he knows how to deal with it."

The man with the icy glare has created distinguished offenses everywhere he has been — and particularly at Florida, then in stints as offensive coordinator with the Broncos and the San Francisco 49ers and during the past three seasons, as head coach at Denver.

The Broncos are 43-10 during his tenure, including 16-2 heading into Sunday's Super Bowl against the Atlanta Falcons.

Shanahan admits to a risk-taking side. He has bungee-jumped, experimented with hang gliding and this past Christmas bought a motorcycle. But in his work he tries to take the risk out of

"We run our plays in practice to be perfect," Jones said, "It's no 'We'll get, it next week' or 'We'll get it next year. We run every play to be a perfect play." That's what makes our offense so good. We go out there knowing that every play has to be like the last play — perfect." Elway, the team's 38-year-old quar-

terback, said Shanahan won't yell at him, possibly in deference to his distinguished career, but often will use the get his message across. Still, the quarterback calls Shanahan

a players' coach.

"That doesn't necessarily mean he has to be buddy-buddy." Elway said. 'A players' coach is a coach the players like, but he's not buddy-buddy with anybody. He's the boss."

Shanahan, who two years ago began having a buffet breakfast served to his

players before meetings after he saw too

many of them eating junk food, accepts
the 'players' coach' tag.

To me, if you do the little things for
people, they know, and they'll do then for you," he said. "In return, when the game is on the line and you're asking them to do something they might not want to do, then they want to do it for you because they know you care about

# In Knicks Debut, Sprewell Stages a Great Comeback

By William Gildea
Washington Prof Service

NEW YORK -- The lights at Madison Square Garden were dimmed for the introduction of the New York Knicks' starting lineup. Fans who filled most of the Garden seats applauded politely for the first three Knicks, but when the fourth trotted on to the court they sent up a sustained roar of welcome. This was their new No. 8, the one they had been talking about for almost a week since he had been acquired, the one they had

NBA PRESEASON

come to see. The Broadway buzz similar to an opening night on a more traditional stage - was created Wednesday by the New York debut of the controversial guard Latrell Sprewell.

In a National Basketball Association preseason opener, the Knicks enjoyed a midseason excitement not because their opponents were the cross-Hudson River rival New Jersey Nets or because the fans were eager after waiting so long during the owners' lockout or because no admission to the game was charged. Sprewell himself caused the stir, scoring 27 points, including 17 in the third period, to electrify the crowd and lead the Knicks to an 88-87 victory. Hitting 11 of 14 shots in 30 minutes, he played

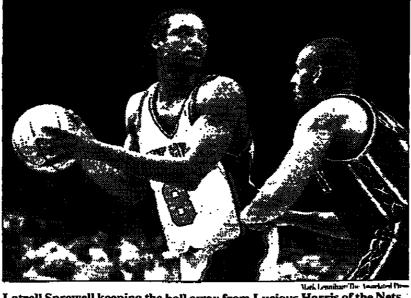
as though he hadn't missed a day. But Sprewell had not played since Dec. 1, 1997, when he choked and threatened his Golden State coach, P.J.

Carlesimo, and was suspended the rest of the season (68 games). "Almost 14 months — it felt like an eternity," Sprewell told scores of reporters crowded in front of his locker. "I didn't feel too good early on. I was really rusty. In the second half I tried to relax and not force anything. I took some poor shots in the first half, but in the second half I really felt good."

The fans got behind him as Garden fans have been known to do when they get emotional. They watched him in-tently, cheered when he touched the ball for the first time three minutes into the game, responded more loudly 35 seconds later when he sank a 15-footer for his first points as a Knick. Sprewell's trademark comrows bobbed against his neck as he descended to the hardwood, but if he felt relief that he was on the scoreboard for the home team in this renowned arena, he

revealed no emotion. But by late in the third period, he could no longer hide his happiness. He exchanged high-fives and chest bumps with the teammates he had pumped with joy. By the fourth period, he had propelled the Knicks to a 16-point lead. But he shied from taking credit, thanking teammates for setting him up and the

fans for their support.
"Even when I wasn't playing well in the first half, they were behind me." he said. "I was loving that. I wouldn't turn it down for anything." Sprewell smiled. He hadn't smiled like that in a long time.. Still, Knicks Coach Jeff Van Gundy and who could blame him? --- preferred



Latrell Sprewell keeping the ball away from Lucious Harris of the Nets.

a let's-wait-and-see approach. "He did some good things," the coach said in understatement. The 6-foot-5 Sprewell, 28, was

banned for one year and had his contract terminated by the Warriors, but an arbitrator reduced the suspension to 68 games and reinstated the last two years of his contract, worth \$17.3 million. Sprewell was an all-star in three of his six seasons at Golden State, with a career scoring average of 20.1. The Madison Square Garden chief executive officer, Dave Checketts, and the Knicks president. Emie Grunfeld, believed they couldn't pass up the chance to add Sprewell's scoring ability in exchange for John Starks, Chris Mills and Terry Cummings. Sprewell's New York debut coincided with the departure of a rein Portland and two with the Knicks.

"I always wanted to be a good role model," Williams said. "I think players have an obligation to the public to carry themselves in a certain way. I've never wanted to embarrass myself, the organization or my family. My father always told me, a good name means more

than a million dollars" In Wednesday's other preseason game. The Associated Press reported: Cavaliers 86, Pistons 82 Litterial Green scored four of his five points down the stretch as Cleveland hung on for a victory at Detroit in a ragged

exhibition game.

with Bure and trails first-place Carolina by one point in the Southeast Division. spected 17-year veteran. Buck Williams, who announced his retirement Wednesday, came out of Maryland to play eight seasons with the Nets, seven delayed penalty was called on the Canadiens. Bure backhanded a pass to

Kvasha, whose wrist shot from the slot beat the Montreal goaltender, Jeff Hackett, for his eighth goal of the season with 13:42 left in the third period. "We knew he would want to put on a display with all the media attention he's been getting," said Alain Vigneault, the

Montreal coach. Bure seemed fatigued after playing more than 30 minutes in his three-goal game against the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday. He didn't have a shot on net Wednesday until 18:26 of the second period when Jeff Hackett snared his point-blank blast.

As Panthers Triumph, 2-1 The fans saved their loudest cheers Playing in his first home game for the for Bure's penalty-killing clearing anthers. Pavel Bure set up Oleg passes during a two-man Canadiens ad-

Panthers, Pavel Bure set up Oleg Kvasha's game-winning goal at 6:18 of the third period as Florida toppled the vantage in the second period. Bure came alive in the third with his wrist shot that hit the crossbar. He then set up Kvasha for his first assist as a "It's great to play in front of fans that really support us," Bure said after he was cheered every time he touched the

Stars 3, Kings 2 In Dallas, Brian Skrudland and Joe Nieuwendyk scored third-period goals as the Stars remained unbeaten against Los Angeles over the past four seasons. With the game tied at 1-1. Skrudland

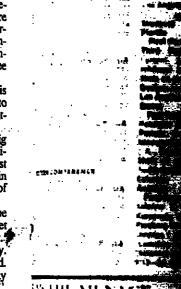
scored on a rebound of Dave Reid's shot with 15:42 to play to help extend the Stars' unbeaten string against the Kings to 14 games.

Blackhawks 4, Oilers 3 Tony Amonte's second goal of the game, with eight seconds left in overtime, was the game-winner as Chicago won in Edmonton to move out of last place in the Western Conference. Nelson Emerson and Ed Olczyk also

scored for Chicago, which extended its undefeated streak to four games and moved one point ahead of idle Calgary.

Janne Niinimaa scored his first goal of the season and Pat Falloon and Ryan Smyth added tallies for the Oilers, who rallied from a 3-0 deficit to force over-

Avalanche 4, Mighty Ducks 3 Peter
Forsberg had a goal and two assists and
Greg DeVries scored his first goal of the
season to put Colorado aband for good season to put Colorado ahead for good in Anaheim. It was the Avalanche's sixth straight victory.



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Bure Is a Smash at Home

WO-MOID

#### **SPORTS**

# Unseeded Wonder Serves Davenport a Defeat

International Herold Tribune

MELBOURNE - The brushfire that has transformed unseeded men's tennis players into world-beaters jumped genders on Thursday, as Lindsay Davenport was scorched in the semifinals of the Australian Open by a French 19-year-old named Amelie Mauresmo

Mauresmo upset the No. 1 seed, 4-6, 7-5, on a humid afternoon to earn a place in the final of the year's first Grand Slam tournament Saturday against Martina Hingis, the No. 2 seed.

Hingis became the first person to beat Monica Seles in the Australian Open, winning, 6-2, 6-4, in straightforward fashion. Seles, who had won this tournament on her four previous visits, is 33-1 in Melbourne, but in the wake of Mauresmo's remarkable victory that was little more than a detail.

"Every time I got my foot through the door and thought I was going to get through to the end, it got shut on my foot," Davenport said. "It's disappointing. I haven't had a match slip through my hands in a long had a match slip through my hands in a long time, so it's hard to take, especially in the semifinals."

The match was a struggle from the be-ginning. Trailing 0-1. Davenport had to save five break points just to hold her serve. She would soon take a 5-2 lead, frequently

Australian Open / Christopher Clarey

forcing the French teenager onto her back foot with flat power from the baseline. But when Davenport served for the set, she was broken as Mauresmo fired a forehand return winner crosscourt.

The tall Californian closed out the set but she was unable to win another against the athletic Mauresmo, ranked 29th but not for long. Mauresmo's aggressive groundstrokes, well-struck first serves and line-toline court coverage created problem after problem for Davenport, the U.S. Open

champion. Davenport was not as sharp or cocksure as she has been on hard courts in recent months. She made nearly as many un-forced errors as winners and missed several short forehands. She was also negative, dropping her racquet on occasion in frustration, but that was partly because Mauresmo succeeded in playing tricks with Davenport's rhythm and confidence.

In their only previous meeting, Mauresmo beat Davenport on clay at the German Open last spring on her way to the final. That tournament, for which Mauresmo had to qualify, represented Mauresmo's breakthrough as a professional, and

pair of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in a five-set thriller to reach

the final. Their opponents will be Ma-

hesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes of In-

though she did not continue to win consistently, Yannick Noah, then the French team captain, thought highly enough of her abilities to select her to play Fed Cup singles against Switzerland in July, passing over Nathalie Tauziat, the Wimbledon finalist.

It was Noah's emotional victory at the French Open in 1983 that convinced Mauresmo at the age of 4 that she wanted to be a tennis player. "My dream was always to be a Grand Slam champion," she said. And so, in a way, deep inside me, I knew that I would make it to this level."

Like Noah, she spent several years liv-ing on the grounds at Stade Roland Garros, the site of the French Open, as a boarder in the French Federation's development program. She has developed into a physically striking figure with her strong chin and muscular shoulders, which look all the broader in the sleeveless shirt she has been

wearing in Melbourne.

"A couple of times, I thought I was playing a guy," Davenport said. "The girl was hitting it so hard, so strong, and I would look over there and she's strong in

the shoulders, those shoulders. Coming from Davenport, who stands 6 foot 2 (1.88 meters) and is one of the hardest hitters in the history of women's tennis, that was quite a statement. She did not stop there. "I can't believe she's 19. Muscular. Everyone handles it differently. Some players aren't that strong, and they're great players. Some players are obviously very strong and pretty good. I'm

sure she's only going to get stronger."
In the current climate of suspicion, allusions to pronounced musculature in a female athlete can quickly raise éyebrows, but Davenport's coach, Robert Van't Hof, said his pupil's remarks were intended to be complimentary, not accusatory.

"It's clear that Amelie is one of the most athletic players in the game," Van't Hof

Mauresmo's game does not rely as heavily as Davenport believes on overpowering her opponent. While she can rip a gorgeous one-handed backhand with pace, she frequently slices the shot, and is adept at varying her forehand, too. Despite her topheavy appearance, she is light on her feet. Movement is one of her strengths, and she is not afraid to take risks by pushing for-

She has also upset No. 8 seed Party Schnyder, No. 11 seed Dominique Van Roost and will break into the top 20 next

Mauresmo's coach, Christophe Fournerie, has not been with her for long. She hired him in December, shortly after separating from Warwick Bashford.

Mauresmo showed few signs of nerves on Thursday. In the third set, in which she was twice down a break, she rallied with aplomb and broke Davenport to win the match with a fine backhand passing shot down the line that she will remember even longer than Davenport. Only then did she lose her balance, dropping to her knees clenching both fists.

"She didn't kind of hesitate at all; she took it," Davenport said. "For this tournament, she is acting like a champion."

To become one, she must beat Hingis, who, despite being 14 months her junior. has already won the last two Australian Opens and three other Grand Slam singles titles. Seles's winning streak in Melbourne is over, but Hingis's is alive. After her victory, she turned to Seles and said that. having ended her friend's perfect record. she was "almost not allowed to lose

Hingis will be the favorite on Saturday, but it bears remembering that, if the wind blows like it can in Melbourne, a brushfire can be devilishly difficult to put out.



Amelie Mauresmo celebrating after winning her semifinal against Lindsay Davenport on Thursday in Melbourne.

#### Enqvist Reaches His First Grand Slam Final

MELBOURNE—Thomas Enqvist of Sweden beat Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1, on Thursday to reach his first Greend Storm final Fig. 1. reach his first Grand Slam final. Enqvist man of Sweden, beat the all-Australian will face the winner of Friday's semifinal between No. 10 seed Yevgeni Kafelnikov of Russia and Tommy Haas of

With the established stars out of the dia, the world's top-ranked team.

#### Germany.

### SCOREBOARD

15 24 6 36 115 135 15 27 4 34 112 139 PACIFIC DIVISION W L T PIS GR. GA 28 9 7 63 130 91 24 11 8 56 114 88 17 20 9 43 116 112 15 19 12 42 104 109 16 26 4 36 108 124 ICEHOCKEY

18 21 7 43 121 125 15 29 3 33 110 137 W L T PIS GF GA 27 16 3 57 152 133 25 15 6 56 134 105 23 13 8 54 120 87

NHL STANDINGS

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Monitred 0 9 1—1 Horizan
Florizan
Florizan
First Period: None, Second Period: None,
Third Period: M-Brisebols 2 (Recchi,
Corson). 2 F-Parrish 12 (Niedermayer,
Whitney) 3 F-, Krosha 8 (Bure, Dvansk)
Stats on goal: M-7-15-8-30, F-9-6-17-32.
Goalies: M-Hackett, F-Burke.

1 8 1-2 Courses ... Los Angeles

Chicage 2 1 8 1—4
Estmonton 0 2 1 0—3
First Period: C-Emerson 11 (Gitmour.
Chelios) 2. C-Olegyk 4. (sh.). Second Period:
C-Amorate 25 (Zmoles, Gilmour) 4. ENithimon 1 (Senyth, Weight) (pp.). 5. ErFellion 12 (Bernase, McSorley) Third
Period: E-Smyth 6 (Mironov. Nitranoo.) (pp.).
Overtises 7. C-Amorte 26 (Gitmour.
Emerson) Shots on sout: C-612-69—33. E-Emerson) Shots on goal: C- 6-12-6-9-33. E-7-18-10-3-38. Goalies: C-Thibault. E-BASKETBALL **NBA PRESEASON** WEDNESDAY RESULTS

No. 14, Purdue (15-6) lost to Northw., 54-50. No. 14, Jouro (14-4) def, Penn Stote 84-74.

Na. 21. Artansus (15-6) def. L5U 86-64. No. 22. Kansus (13-6) lost to Nebrosko 84-69. No. 23. Miami (13-4) def. Setori Hall 77-71. Na. 25. Florida (15-3) def. Alabama 72-68. LEADING COLLEGES

Boston College 78, Notre Dame 67 Delaware 99, Drexel 91, OT Holy Crass 77, Lehigh 67 Latayette 66, Bucknell 65 Latoyla, Md. 81, Marist 69
Maine 74, Vermoni 72, OT
Novy 54, Colgate 54
Rhode Island 82, 51, Josephs 68
Viest Virginia 85, Marsholl 84, OT
American (J. 68, Wilsom & Mory 65
Lanes Mariston 60, Old Deposition 8. James Madison 69, Old Dominion 56

South Carolina 67, Mississip Termessee 78, Vanderbill 67 Virginia 64, Virginia Tech 55 Akron 93, Ball St. 83 Bradley 67, Creighton 57 Indiano St. 77, Illinois St. 67 Kent 71, Orio U. 70 Missouri 70, Konses St. 63 N. Iowa 79, Wichito St. 76 SW Missouri St. 90, Droke 8 Toledo 75, Cent. Michigon 64 W. Michigan 75: E. Michigan 64 Oklahoma St. 65, Southern Miss. 64

> ido 64, kowa St. 84 mento St. 60, Montano 57 WOMEN

No. 10 Tex. Tech (18-2) def. Oldahoma 89-87. No. 2) Penn St. (14-5) def. Northw. 93-60. No. 22 Boston Cell. (16-3) def. Seton Hot 60-55

#### No. 24 Kansas (15-6) dei. Texas 56-54. CRICKET

india VS. Pakistan FIRST TEST, FIRST DAY HURSDAY IN MADRAS, MIDU

SOUTH AFRICA VS. WEST INDIE THIRD ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL WEDNESDAY IN DURBAN, SOUTH AS South Africa: 274-9 in 50 overs West Indies: 219 all out 43.7 overs outh Africa won by 55 runs and leads ven-match sereis 2-1.

### FIGURESKATING

European Championships WEDNESOAY IN PRAGUE

PAIRS FINAL 1. Marjo Petrovo/Alexel Tikhonov, Russia, 3.5 factored placings 2. Dorata Zagorska/Mariusz Studek, Pol. 4.0 a/Mariusz Sivdek, Pol. 4.0 Nophane Bernadis, Fr. 4.0 No. 3 Ls. Tech (16-2) def. SW Lo. 90-43. 5. Totision of Tokinioning/Abadin Abarinin, Riss. 75
No. 5 Comp. (17-3) def. No. 13 Parignes (14-7) 56-55. 6. Yulia Obericas/Dmitri Palamarchut, Ukr. 9.0 ict Seles (6), U.S. 6-2, 6-4.

#### MEN'S DOUBLES SOCCER

SEMFIMALS

Mohesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes (1),
India, def. Elbs Feyreira, South Africa, and
Rick Leach (4), U.S. 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 7-6 (7-5). ENGLISH F.A. CUP field United 4 Corddf 1 onas Bjarkman, Sweden, und Polnck fler (5), Aus., del. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodfords, Aus., 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 8-6.

STALLAN CUP QUARTERFINALS WOMEN'S DOUBLES Inter Mulan 5, Lazio 2 Lindsay Davenport U.S. and Natasha Zvereva (1), Belarus, def. Screna Williams and Venus Williams, U.S., 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. inter wan 6-4 on aggregate Parma 4. Uděneše 0 Panna wan 6-3 an attareasts

SCOTTISH PREMIET LEAGUE WIXED DOUBLES QUARTERFINAL
EIIIs Ferreira, South Africa, and Debbie RENDLY INTERNATIONAL sm. U.S., def. Donald John berty Po. U.S., 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

#### TENNIS TRANSITIONS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

BASEBALL MAJOR LEAGUE SABEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA—Agreed to terms with LHP Omor Dogi on 2-year contract. MILWAUKEE—Agreed to terms with LHP I'm Abbott on 1-year contract. Designated

ST. LOUIS—Agreed to terms with 2B Cortos

Boergu on 1-year contract Sent OF Alaik Little outnight in Memphys PCL. SAN DIEGO-Agreed to terms with LHP Sterling Hilchook on 2-year contract BASKETBALL

BOSTON - Signed C Enc Rely. CHICAGO - Signed C Priest Louderdole. Re-leased G Corte Stoples. F Martin Mourseps CLEVELAND—Warred F Shawn Harlan DALLAS -- Re-signed F Codec Coballos to

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

DALLAS-AN-Superur February
year contract.

WEW YORK—Announced returnment of F
Buck Walloms.

VANCOUVER—Staned F Shareef Abdur
Rohlan to 6-year contract extension.

WASHINGTON—Re-signed F-C Bon Wallace

POOTBALL

HATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CAROLINA-Numed Sum Mills brebocket

Coach, Bob Valeschie secondory Coach, and

Jerry Simusons strength and o CRICUMATI—Signed DB Rodney KANSAS CITY-Named Kelth Rowers ligh

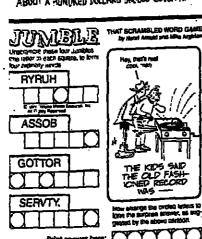
ends coach. HEW ENGLAND—Named from Fedits wade re-ceivers coach, Brad Seely special fedins coach, and Danile Sommerchia offensive line coach.

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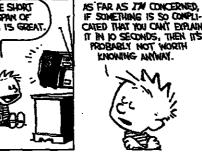


WHAT'S





**CALVIN AND HOBBES** 



THURSDAY IN MELBOURNE

MEN'S SINGLES

Enqvist, Sweden, def. Ecuados, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

WOMEN'S STHOLES

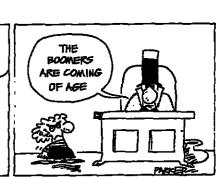












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#### **POSTCARD**

#### An Atheist's Souvenirs

By Rick Lyman
New York Times Service

PLUGERVILLE, Texas — from one of the bank accounts of American Atheists Inc., the sure why he kept raising his hand when the bidding passed hand when the bidding passed after becoming a national fig-the \$500 limit he'd set for ure with a 1963 lawsuit that himself.

"I guess I got caught up in the moment," he said. I from public schools. Since then, nothing

The auctioneer, Bob Sheehan, held aloft the small, dents at Winnitka Heights Baptist Church in Tulsa. Oklahoma, on Dec. 15, 1968. to Madalyn Murray O'Hair, hated woman in America."

The bidding shot past be 79, her son 44 and her \$500, then \$1,000 and Nas-granddaughter 33. sour hung in there.

Finally, the bidders fell away and he found himself the owner of Madalyn Murray came after the federal gov-O'Hair's Bible for \$2,000.

the northeast fringe of the owed in back taxes and to Austin suburbs were garbage other creditors. bags full of clothes and cardboard boxes and bric-a-brac and dusty pieces of furniture They sit in a safe-deposit box - the biggest garage sale you in an Austin bank a block ever saw. Chinese dolls. away from the office of Ron-Bronze cowboys. Stacks of ald Ingalls, the attorney who videotapes. Souvenirs from is handling their separate world travels. Pots and pans, sale. highball glasses, decanters. The diaries are a sad chron-collectible whisky bottles. icle of a yearning, unhappy And dozens of boxes of

This was all that remained of the worldly possessions of judgments of almost every-O'Hair, who disappeared from her Austin office in out Jews and gays and blacks. September 1995 with her She dreamed for such things granddaughter, Robin Mur- as a "luxury apartment," ray-O'Hair, and one of her mink coat and a Cadillac. sons, Jon Garth Murray, leaving behind the family's three of it," she wrote in April dogs. O'Hair's medications 1953. "Work, hope - dream, and a 1985 Porsche parked at realizing there is not much the Austin airport.

calls and bank records, as far as San Antonio, where \$500,000 was withdrawn from one of the bank accounts movement O'Hair founded effectively removed prayer

Since then, nothing. Not a

The authorities say they white Bible, a gift from sni- have no idea where the three are. Some people believe they were robbed and killed, others think they may still be alive, fleeing creditors, perthe atheist leader who once haps in New Zealand, where described herself as "the most they were said to have bank accounts. If so, O'Hair would

The auction held Saturday ernment confiscated the con-All around the dimly tents of O'Hair's home to pay lighted, white-metal barn on some of the \$250,000 she

O'Hair's private papers were not part of the auction.

The diaries are a sad chronlife. O'Hair, bitter that her dreams of political influence never blossomed, had harsh one around her, often singling This living is the pattern

hope the dreams will become The authorities were able realization. Yet always the futo trace them, from cell phone ture invites, promises."

# Miss or Ms.? In Britain, They're Fighting Words

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

CARDIFF, Wales — Liz Shank-land, a 35-year-old public relations executive here, was thrilled to marry her longtime love, Gerald Toms, last November. But she was not thrilled when people started to call her by the name of a person she does not believe exists.

"At parties, people would say, This is Gerry Toms — and this is his wife, Mrs. Toms, "she related. "They didn't even give me a Chris-tian name. And when I said my really Mrs. Toms.3 The comments grew more ex-

treme. "One woman said to me, 'Don't you think you're being rather disrespectful and rude?" she decided extreme measures were called for.

The new bride, a former reporter and editor at The Western Mail take the unusual step of buying a classified ad in her old paper.

"Although she has now publicly pledged undying love for her husband, she has not changed her name to 'Mrs. Toms,' "the ad said. Instead, she will continue to be

known — personally and profes-sionally — as Ms. Liz Shankland, and makes no apology to the misguided fuddy-duddies who believe that to be strange or unconven-In its small way, Ms. Shank-

land's situation illustrates a larger phenomenon in Britain. It is sometimes hard, women say, to persuade people that you don't want to take the name of your husband (if you have one). And it is sometimes hard to get people to call you Ms. - a word that, while in wide use in some professions, still seems to carry connotations of the stereotypical bra-burning, man-bashing, non-leg-shaving feminists who apparently so terrorized British men

in the 1960s and '70s.

"They just can't cope with Ms.," said Margaret Blott, a London obstetrician in her 30s who felt compelled to use Miss when she began practicing medicine. (Under the British system, many of the highest-qualified doctors don't call themselves Dr.) Miss Blott, the only Miss in a sea of Mr.'s on the front door of her elegant Harley Street office, said she would have much preferred Ms, but didn't want to unsettle anyone in the conser-

vative medical establishment. "People make all sorts of assumptions when you use Miss." name was Liz Shankland, they'd say: 'You can't do that. You're someone who's 60 years old. On the other hand, Ms. does have connotations of aggressive feminist overtones, and a lot of people don't

Why not? Kathy Lette, an ex-Ms. Shankland recalled — and so patriate Australian novelist who has made a career of poking fun at the stodgy ways of British males. said it's sexism, pure and simple. "When I say I want to be called Ms. here who knows the value of a well- Lette," said Ms. Lette, who is martimed media offensive, decided to ried to one of Britain's most respected human-rights lawyers, Geoffrey Robertson, "they either ignore me, or they just go ahead and call me Mrs. Robertson, or Mrs. Lette. When you make an issue out of it, they look at you like you've turned into Lorena Bobbitt.

Despite their trappings of en-lightenment, she said, British men are unreconstructed cave-dwellers. "Women here have been lulled into a false sense of security," she "When I moved here, I

thought I'd come to New Man plan-

et. The men talked about gardening and opera and quoted huge whacks of poetry. They knew Shakespeare's sonnets by heart. I thought, 'Oh, they're so sensitive. But it's a big scam — they're just as sexist as Australian men, but it's much more hidden.

Part of the problem, it seems, is that Britain has always resisted what it sees as American-style called postmen, even if they hap-political correctness, a term depen to be female mail carriers. Mi-

first job in the film industry. The buyer

asked to remain anonymous. The Phil-

lips auction house said the 51 story-

boards used to calculate the dramatic

shots and special effects leading to the

sinking of the luxury liner sold for

Lisa Marie Presley has dropped her lawsuit against the National En-

quirer, which had said she was sui-

cidal. "I am satisfied with the set-

ement," Presley said, adding that

the lawsuit was designed to send a

message to tabloids that she won't

tolerate publication of untruths. The

Enquirer's editor, Steve Coz, was

outraged by her announcement "She

three times the minimum estimate.



No feminist, Liz Shankland merely wanted to keep her name.

in absurd changes to the language. ferred to as "the Spaniard" in Britons are loath to demonstrate newspaper reports, a reference to such sensitivity, or to make such the fact that his father was a Span-

who deliver the mail here are still to object.

PEOPLE

changes, themselves. Thus, women ish immigrant, and nobody seemed

Feminism is a highly charged concept here, as it is to some in the rided as describing a ridiculously chael Portillo, the former Tory de-tortured sensitivity that has resulted fense minister, was routinely re-seem almost physically afraid of the

term. Margaret Jay, the leader of the House of Lords, recently declared in an interview with The Guardian that she was not a feminist, even though one of her jobs is to run the government's Women's Unit, which deals with issues like edu-

Brid's Daily News

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cation, child care and equal pay. "In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things," said Lady lay, who as a bona fide baroness since her elevation to the House of Lords no longer has to bother deciding whether she wants to be Mrs., Ms.

or Miss.

Even Ms. Shankland, who so objected to being seen as what she calls "part and parcel of my husband," balks at the label. She deliberately tried to make her ad playfully hyperbolic, she said. "so that people wouldn't think I was one of those raving feminists who doesn't agree with anything."
"I believe in equality and all the

rest of it, but the word's just got such connotations," she said. reminds people of trade unions, of crew-cut hair and dungarees, and give the impression that you sort of hare men.

Ms. Shankland certainly doesn hate her husband, a superintender in the South Wales police force who came in for a bit of ribbin when her ad appeared, particularly, because she had not told him about it in advance.

"I wasn't aware that she was going to resolve the situation in such a direct and public way." Mr. Toms said. But he proclaimed himself unfazed by the experience; even when he found that the ad was inserted into the agenda at his office meeting as a joke on the day it appeared. 'I don't, as a man, need to put a tag around a woman's neck to say that I'm married to her."

Has there been any fallout? 'Some people look at me like I'm somebody with two heads, but a lot of people have rung me up and said, 'Good on you,' 'Ms. Shankland said. One other thing: "At Gerry's office, they're calling him Superintendent Shankland



ENGRAVED IN SNOW — Sculpture in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, after storms.

FIFTY-ONE of the original story-boards from the 1958 film about is lying if she means to suggest that she proved false the 1997 article," the sinking of the Titanic, "A Night to Coz said. "If Lisa Marie wanted a Remember," were sold at an auction in London for £2,400 (about \$3,800). public airing of the facts surrounding these matters she would not have The seller, the 81-year-old Robert dropped her lawsuit." Terms of the Bell, drew the pen-and-ink sketches settlement were not disclosed. for the picture, made at Pinewood Studios in southern England, as his

Elle McPherson was in a tight. mink-trimmed suit. Baby wore white lace. Photographers gathered outside the church of Sant Agostino church in Rome as the model-turned-mom arrived for the baptism of 11-monthold Arpad Flynn Alexander Busson, whose father is the French financier Arpad Busson. The baptism was followed by a luncheon hosted by the baby's godfather, the industrialist Gianni Agnelli.

The motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel has received a liver transplant in an operation at Tampa General Hospital in Florida. "He's in stable condition," a hospital spokes-

man, John Dunn, said, confirming the transplant. He said he was not authorized to give any details of the operation. According to a message on Knievel's official Web site (www.evelknievel.com), the operation took place on Tuesday night.

'He was in surgery most of the night. It was completed successfully and was a normal operation," the message said. Knievel, 60, had hepatitis C and had been on a waiting list for a liver transplant for several months. Now retired, he became known in the 1960s and 1970s for his motorcycle stunts, which often ended in spectacular crashes,

- 🗆

The wife of the conductor Andre Previn has filed for divorce. Heather differences" in her divorce complaint as the reason for wanting to end the 17-year marriage. Mrs. Previn is seeking custody of the couple's 15year-old son, Lukas, and an unspecified amount of alimony and child

support. Mrs. Previn, who lives on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, with her son, sells jewelry at her Edgartown store. Previn, whose work has earned him multiple Grammy and Academy Awards, lives in New York. Previn has been married four times, including an eight-year mar-riage to the actress Mia Farrow.

More than 100 photographers took up positions overnight outside Long don's Ritz hotel tor the most elusive shot of all; Prince Charles together with his long-time lover. Camilla Parker Bowles. Speculation reached fever pitch that the pair would leave - France the hotel together on Thursday after a birthday party for Camilla's sister, birthday party for Camilla's sister, Annabel. Parker Bowles gave a 50th birthday party for Prince November but they have not been seen together in public, a shot that photographers say could be worth fl million. The two have been to clubs, restaurants and friends' marriages together but always kept a low profile.



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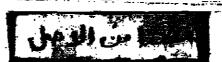
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